

SWEET FIND

JUAN ZAMORANO
M. WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — A North Korean ship carrying weapons system parts buried under sacks of sugar was seized as it tried to cross the Panama Canal on its way from Cuba to its home country, which is barred by United Nations sanctions from importing sophisticated weapons or missiles, Panamanian officials said Tuesday.



Panamanian workers aboard a North Korean-flagged ship at the container terminal of Colon City, Panama, Tuesday, July 16, 2013.
(AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

The ship appeared to be transporting a radar-control system for a Soviet-era surface-to-air missile system, according to a private defense analysis firm that examined a photograph of the find.

Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli said the ship identified as the 14,000-ton Chong Chon Gang was carrying missiles and other arms "hidden in containers underneath the cargo of sugar."

Martinelli tweeted a photo showing a green tube that appears to be a horizontal antenna for the SNR-75 "Fan Song" radar.

Continued on page 2

THE NEW GOP?



Liz Cheney To Challenge Gop Senator In Wyoming

Former Vice President Dick Cheney hugs his daughter, Liz Cheney, at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington. Liz Cheney announced Tuesday she will run against Wyoming's senior U.S. senator in next year's Republican primary.
(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

JONATHAN MARTIN
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Liz Cheney, the older daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, announced Tuesday that she intended to challenge Sen. Michael B. Enzi in a Republican primary next year that national and state party officials had hoped to avoid. "I am running because I believe it is necessary for a new generation of leaders to step up to the plate," Liz Cheney, 46, said in a video posted on the Web. Cheney made no mention

of Enzi, 69, and focused most of her criticism on President Barack Obama, who is deeply unpopular in Wyoming.

But along with the generational swipe at Enzi, she implicitly took a shot at his low-key and consensus-oriented style, saying that "we can no longer afford simply to get along to go along" and declaring that Wyoming needed "a strong voice in Washington."

Word of Cheney's decision went out just minutes after Enzi, in a barely veiled mes-

sage to Cheney, issued his own statement saying that he would seek a fourth term.

Enzi said he was not notified about Cheney's intentions either by her or her father - whom he has known for more than 30 years - before the video went out.

"I thought we were friends," he added.

Her ambitions had been rumored since she moved from suburban Washington to the Jackson Hole, Wyo., area last fall and immediately became a regular

at state political and civic events. Cheney, who was a senior State Department official in President George W. Bush's administration, is now a Fox News contributor.

She will have to overcome some local suspicions in Wyoming.

In the video announcing her candidacy, Cheney seemed to acknowledge as much. Trying to preempt charges of carpetbagging, she noted that her family first came to the state in 1852. □

Panama: Weapons found on North Korean ship

Continued from Front

This was used to guide missiles fired by the SA-2 air-defense system found in former Warsaw Pact and Soviet-allied nations, said Neil Ashdown, an analyst for IHS Jane's Intelligence. "It is possible that this could be being sent to North Korea to update its high-altitude air-defense capabilities," Ashdown said. Panamanian authorities said one container buried under sugar sacks contained radar equipment that appears to be designed for use with air-to-air or surface-to-air missiles, said Belsio Gonzalez, director of Panama's National Aeronautics and Ocean Administration.

tary equipment belonged to the Caribbean nation, saying it had been shipped out to be repaired and returned to the island.

A statement from the Foreign Ministry said the vessel was bound for North Korea mostly loaded with sugar but added that the cargo also included 240 metric tons of "obsolete defensive weapons": two Volga and Pechora anti-aircraft missile systems, nine missiles "in parts and spares," two Mig-21 Bis and 15 engines for those airplanes.

"The agreements subscribed by Cuba in this field are supported by the need to maintain our defensive capacity in order to preserve national sovereignty," the statement read.

The U.N. Security Council

light weapons.

The most recent resolution, approved in March after Pyongyang's latest nuclear test, authorizes all countries to inspect cargo in or transiting through their territory that originated in North Korea, or is destined to North Korea if a state has credible information the cargo could violate Security Council resolutions.

"Panama obviously has an important responsibility to ensure that the Panama Canal is utilized for safe and legal commerce," said Acting U.S. Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo, who is the current Security Council president.

"Shipments of arms or related material to or from Korea would violate Security Council resolutions,



Military equipment lays in containers aboard a North Korean-flagged ship at the Manzanillo International container terminal on the coast of Colon City, Panama, Tuesday, July 16, 2013. A North Korean ship carrying weapons system parts buried under sacks of sugar was seized as it tried to cross the Panama Canal on its way from Cuba to its home country, which is under a United Nations arms embargo, Panamanian officials said Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

He said Panamanian authorities expected to find the missiles themselves in containers that must still be searched. An Associated Press journalist who gained access to the rusting ship saw green shipping containers that had been covered by hundreds, perhaps thousands, of white sacks marked "Cuban Raw Sugar."

Later Tuesday, Cuba acknowledged that the mili-

has imposed four rounds of increasingly tougher sanctions against North Korea since its first nuclear test on Oct. 9, 2006.

Under current sanctions, all U.N. member states are prohibited from directly or indirectly supplying, selling or transferring all arms, missiles or missile systems and the equipment and technology to make them to North Korea, with the exception of small arms and

three of them as a matter of fact."

Panamanian authorities believe the ship was returning from Havana on its way to North Korea, Panamanian Public Security Minister Jose Raul Mulino told The Associated Press. Based on unspecified intelligence, authorities suspected it could be carrying contraband and tried to communicate with the crew, who didn't respond. □



The West Bank Jewish settlement of Ariel is seen from an airplane window. A senior Israeli official Tuesday condemned the European Union's new directive banning EU dealings with settlements as "worrying" and counterproductive to peace talks.

(AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

Israeli leaders condemn EU move on settlements

JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli leaders on Tuesday condemned a European Union ban on funding to Israeli institutions that operate in occupied territories, but also acknowledged the country's growing isolation over its construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

The EU decision marked a new international show of displeasure with Israeli settlements built on lands captured in the 1967 Middle East war, bolstering the Palestinian claim to these territories and animating an increasingly discordant Israeli debate over the wisdom of the settlement enterprise.

The move dominated Israeli newscasts throughout the day, and prompted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to summon senior Cabinet ministers for consultations.

"We will not accept any external edicts about our borders," Netanyahu said, adding that borders could only be resolved through direct negotiations with the Palestinians. He was suggesting that the settlements are aimed at bringing about changes in the pre-1967 borders, but not absorb the entire West Bank.

Netanyahu said the Europeans should deal with what he called "slightly more urgent" matters in the

region, including the civil war in Syria and the Iranian nuclear program.

But Netanyahu's finance minister and senior coalition partner, Yair Lapid, warned that the move reflected Israel's deteriorating position on the global stage.

"The latest decision is part of a long line of decisions that are leading to Israel's isolation in the world. Time is not on our side, and every day that Israel is not in peace negotiations is a day in which our international standing is harmed more," he said.

Negotiations have been stalled for nearly five years, with Israeli settlement construction at the heart of the deadlock. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was in neighboring Jordan on Tuesday as part of an ongoing effort to bring the sides back together for talks.

The Palestinians have demanded that Israel halt construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, areas captured in 1967 that they claim for their future state, before negotiations can start. They also want Israel to accept its pre-1967 lines as the basis for a future border, with the possibility of small modifications reached in negotiations.

The Palestinians say continued settlement construction is a sign of bad faith and undermines hopes for dividing the land between two states. □

Joblessness to keep rising, OECD says

JULIA WERDIGIER

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LONDON - The social impact of the European economic crisis shows little sign of abating, with unemployment in Spain, Greece and other southern European economies expected to continue to rise through next year, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in a study published Tuesday.

Joblessness will continue to edge up, to about 28 percent in Spain and Greece, 12.5 percent in Italy and 11 percent in France by the end of 2014, the Paris-based OECD said in its forecast. Young people and people with few skills will be affected the most, said the organization, which represents 34 of the world's largest economies. Two of the biggest exceptions to the trend are the United States and Germany, where the number of people out of work is expected to decline further next year, the study said.

"The social scars of the crisis are far from being healed," said Ángel Gurría, secretary-general of the organization.

Unemployment in many developed economies has been rising steadily since the financial crisis started in 2008. People on short-term contracts, especially younger and lower-skilled workers, were often the first to be fired when the crisis started and struggled to find work, the organization said.

In May, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany declared youth unemployment Europe's biggest challenge. And some governments, including France, pledged new measures to try to reduce joblessness.

But some economists said that government labor policies to improve the employment situation, including apprenticeship programs, can do only so much. □

Obama: Immigration overhaul will take more time

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama conceded Tuesday that an immigration overhaul cannot be achieved by his August deadline, and he insisted that any legislation include a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million people in the U.S. illegally.

In a series of interviews with Spanish-language television stations, Obama said he hoped an immigration bill could be complete later this year, though that

may be overly optimistic. Immigration is a rare top issue on the president's agenda in which his fellow Democrats and opposition Republicans find common ground, but some more conservative Republicans object to anything they see as amnesty for people in the country illegally.

Obama disagreed. "It does not make sense to me, if we're going to make this once-in-a-generation effort to finally fix this system,

to leave the status of 11 million people or so unresolved," he said during an interview with a Telemundo affiliate. Some Republicans view support for immigration reform as central to the party's national viability given the growing political power of Hispanics, but the legislative prospects in Washington grow increasingly uncertain.

The president said the lack of consensus among Republicans in the House of

Representatives will stretch the debate past August, his original deadline for a long-elusive overhaul of the nation's tangled immigration laws.

Also Tuesday, members of a bipartisan group of senators who wrote the Senate immigration bill met in the Capitol with advocates from business, religious, agriculture and other organizations to urge everyone to work together to move the issue through the House. □



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., left, and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., talk to reporters outside of the West Wing of the White House in Washington, after their meeting on immigration reform with President Barack Obama. The two senators who played a big role in an immigration overhaul in Congress say they're encouraged legislation will move forward despite resistance from the Republican-controlled House.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

White House coy on Obama's Russia travel plans

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is playing coy over President Barack Obama's travel plans to Russia this fall as Washington and Moscow negotiate the fate of National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden.

Obama is scheduled to visit St. Petersburg in September for the Group of 20 economic summit and also stop in Moscow for one-on-one talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. But with Snowden seeking temporary asylum in Russia — a request the U.S. strongly op-

poses — the White House on Tuesday was ambiguous about the president's itinerary.

"The president intends to travel to Russia in September for the G-20 Summit, and I don't have any further announcements with regard to that travel," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

Asked whether that meant Obama was skipping Moscow, Carney would only say that he didn't have anything to add to "previous announcements on presidential travel."

Pressed on whether he was being intentionally vague,

the White House spokesman said, "I don't have anything to add."

Snowden has been stuck in the transit zone of Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport since he arrived on a flight from Hong Kong on June 23. His limbo status has added another layer of tension to the already complex relationship between Obama and Putin, who has proved an irritant for the U.S. on some international issues, including the civil war in Syria.

Putin on Monday described Snowden's arrival as an unwelcome present foisted on Russia by the U.S.

He said that Snowden flew to Moscow intending only to transit to another country, but that the U.S. intimidated other countries into refusing to accept him, effectively blocking the fugitive from further flying.

Snowden, in a temporary asylum request submitted Tuesday, claimed he faces persecution from the U.S. government and could face torture or death.

The former government contractor is facing espionage charges in the U.S. for revealing details of intelligence programs to monitor Internet activity and phone records. □

Hagel orders top military brass to be cut 20 percent

LARA JAKES

AP National Security Writer JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Tuesday he has ordered 20 percent "across the top" budget cuts for his Pentagon staff and that of his top brass. The reductions, which he did not spell out in detail, are for the 2015-19 period. They will apply to his office, that of the Joint Chief's chairman and also the Pentagon headquarters offices of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. It is one element of a broader effort by the Pentagon to adjust to forced spending reductions that already have resulted in the furloughing of civilian workers.

Hagel said he believed

Pentagon headquarters staff must share in the sacrifices.

"That isn't going to fix the problem," he told about 100 Defense Department civilian employees in a question-and-answer session at Jacksonville Naval Air Station on the second day of a tour of military bases. "But, yes, everybody's got to do their part."

Hagel spokesman George Little later said the top brass cuts could save between \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion over the five years and will target personnel, including civilians and contractors. He said the cuts will happen even if Congress eases budget caps that have created sharp limits on defense spending.

Military spending was



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel listens during a news conference at the Pentagon. Hagel said Tuesday he has ordered 20 percent "across the top" budget cuts for his Pentagon staff and that of his top brass.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

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slashed by \$37 billion this year, forcing job furloughs that began last week for an estimated 650,000 Defense Department civilian employees.

The layoffs do not apply to military members, but they, too, are feeling the effects of a budget squeeze that is reducing some training.

The Pentagon faces the prospect of an additional \$52 billion budget cut in 2014 unless Congress and the White House come up with a deficit-cutting plan. Hagel told Congress last week that such a large additional cut would have "severe and unacceptable" effects. □

BP seeks halt to Gulf oil spill settlement payouts

M. KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — British oil giant BP has asked a U.S. judge to temporarily halt all settlement payments to Gulf Coast businesses and residents who claim they lost money after the company's 2010 oil spill while former FBI Director Louis Freeh investigates alleged misconduct by a lawyer who helped administer the multibillion-dollar settlement program. BP PLC argued in a court filing Tuesday that it shouldn't be required to take the risk that hundreds of millions of dollars in claims payments could be "tainted by fraud, corruption and malfeasance." The U.S. District judge didn't immediately rule on BP's most recent request to temporarily halt settlement payouts. The April 2010 blowout of

BP's well off the Louisiana coast triggered an explosion that killed 11 workers on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and led to millions of gallons of oil spilling into the Gulf. Shortly after the disaster, BP agreed to create a \$20 billion compensation fund. BP initially estimated that it would pay \$7.8 billion to resolve claims by tens of thousands of Gulf Coast residents and businesses. Now the company says it no longer can give a reliable estimate for how much the deal will cost. In April, the judge refused to block what could be billions of dollars of payments to businesses after BP argued that he and the court-supervised claims administrator Patrick Juneau have misinterpreted the settlement and forced the company to pay for inflated and fictitious losses.

US Senate reaches deal on nominations



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., left, and Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., walk to a closed door caucus as lawmakers moved toward resolving their feud over filibusters of White House appointees, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, July 16, 2013. The Senate just voted 71-29 to end a two-year Republican blockade that was preventing Richard Cordray from winning confirmation as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Senate cleared the way Tuesday for confirmation of several of President Barack Obama's nominees long blocked by Republicans, agreeing to quick action on others and finessing a Democratic threat to overturn historic rules that protect minority-party rights. Officials in both parties said they hoped the deal would signal a new, less acrimonious time for the Senate, with critical decisions ahead on spending, the government's borrowing authority, student loan interest rates and more. As part of the agreement both parties preserved their rights to resume confrontations over nominations in the future, Republicans by delaying them and Democrats by threatening once again to change the rules government such delays. "Nobody wants to come to Armageddon here," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Democrat whose talks with Republican John McCain were critical in avoiding a collision that had threatened to plunge the Senate even deeper into partisan gridlock.

The White House reaped the first fruits of the deal within hours, when Richard Cordray's nomination to

head the Consumer Financial Protection Board was approved 66-34. He was first nominated in July 2011 and has been in office by virtue of a recess appointment that bypassed the Senate.

There was no immediate response from the White House, although Democratic senators said the terms of the compromise were acceptable to the administration.

Under the agreement, several of seven stalled nominees would win confirmation later in the week, including Labor Secretary-designate Tom Perez; Gina McCarthy, named to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, and Fred Hochberg to head of the Export-Import Bank.

Two nominees to the National Labor Relations Board, Richard Griffin and Sharon Clark, were to be replaced by new selections, expected to be submitted quickly by Obama and steered toward speedy consideration by Senate Republicans. Obama installed Griffin and Clark in their posts by recess appointments in 2011, bypassing the Senate but triggering a legal challenge. An appeals court recently said the two appointments were invalid, and the Supreme Court has agreed

to review the case.

In their places, officials said Obama intends to nominate Nancy Schiffer, a former top lawyer for the AFL-CIO labor federation, and Kent Hirozawa, counsel to NLRB Chairman Mark Pearce.

The seventh nomination at issue, Pearce's selection to a new term as NLRB chairman, was relatively uncontroversial, and is likely to be approved along with the replacements for Griffin and Clark. The NLRB appointments, if confirmed as expected by the end of August, would prevent the virtual shutdown of the agency because of a lack of confirmed board members to rule on collective bargaining disputes between unions and companies. □

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Protests over Zimmerman verdict continue

MIAMI (AP) — Civil rights leaders said Tuesday they are planning vigils and rallies in 100 U.S. cities this weekend to press the federal government to bring charges against a former-neighborhood watch volunteer acquitted in the killing of an unarmed black teenager.

George Zimmerman had been charged with sec-

in cities including Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and New York.

Martin was visiting his father and returning to the home of his father's fiancée after a trip to the store when Zimmerman identified him as a potential criminal. The neighborhood watchman fatally shot Martin during a physical confrontation in the gated community in

and sow dangerous conflict in our neighborhoods," Holder said during a speech before a convention of the NAACP civil rights group. Meanwhile, protests over Zimmerman's acquittal had broken out as far away as California.

In Los Angeles, people ran through streets Monday night, breaking windows, attacking people on side-



Friends try to calm down, David Wright, top, who reacted after he was told he couldn't enter the Bob Casey Federal Courthouse in Houston as more than 100 protestors organized outside for a protest in reaction to the acquittal of neighborhood watch member George Zimmerman Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

(AP Photo/Johnny Hanson)

ond-degree murder in the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin last year, but a jury of six women found him not guilty of that charge as well as the lesser charge of manslaughter.

"People all across the country will gather to show that we are not having a two- or three-day anger fit. This is a social movement for justice," Rev. Al Sharpton said as he announced the plan outside the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

The rallies and vigils will occur in front of federal court buildings at noon Saturday

February 2012.

Sharpton says vigils will be followed by a conference next week in Miami to develop a plan to address Florida's "stand-your-ground" law. The law gives people wide latitude to use deadly force if they fear death or bodily harm.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said such laws, which exist in many states, need to be reassessed.

"Separate and apart from the case that has drawn the nation's attention, it's time to question laws that senselessly expand the concept of self-defense

walks and raiding a Wal-Mart store, while others blocked a major freeway in the San Francisco Bay area in the third night of demonstrations.

Fourteen people were arrested after multiple acts of vandalism and several assaults in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles police vowed Tuesday to crack down with quick action and arrests if further disturbances arise. Demonstrators must remain on sidewalks Tuesday night and will be arrested if they commit any crimes or block traffic, police said. □

Microsoft asking Holder to ease gag on NSA program

REDMOND, Washington (AP) — Microsoft Corp. on Tuesday sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder calling on him to personally review a gag order that prevents the company and others from further discussing secret national security requests for customer emails, Skype calls and documents stored on its servers.

The letter follows Microsoft's motion in a secret court last month asking for permission to break out which requests were from law enforcement officials and which were from the National Security Agency. It hasn't received a response.

A spokesman for the attorney general said the office is reviewing the letter. Currently, the company is limited in what it can publicly say about the requests for information and is forced to combine the total requests and report only how many it has received, in increments of 1,000.

Microsoft said in June it received between 6,000 and 7,000 requests from both law enforcement and national security officials in the last six months of 2012. Microsoft's general counsel, Bradford Smith, argues in the letter that the gag order violates the company's constitutional right to free expression, which is constrained only "by a narrowly tailored compelling government interest." "Numerous documents are now in the public domain. As a result, there is no longer a compelling government interest in stopping those of us with knowledge from sharing more information," Smith wrote.

Technology companies like Google, Facebook and Microsoft have come under fire for cooperating with the NSA's Prism program, in which the government seizes records including emails, chats and video calls. The system was exposed by The Guardian and Washington Post newspapers in a series of stories that began in June and which relied on documents supplied by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

Smith also clarified in a blog post Tuesday the company's position mainly in response to a story in The Guardian last week that said Microsoft gave the U.S. government special access to unencrypted emails and video calls over its Skype service.

He reiterated that Microsoft did not give the government unfettered access to its servers, but turned over information regarding specific accounts after reviewing the legality of the requests. Smith said Microsoft did not give the government the ability to break into encrypted emails. Rather, he said the company turned over material from its servers, where data remains unencrypted.

He also said that back-end improvements to Skype "were not made to facilitate greater government access to audio, video, messaging or other customer data."

Smith also said that Microsoft has never turned over data about business or government clients to any government based on a national security request. □

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US Financial Front:

Investors to scrutinize Bernanke's latest remarks

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ben Bernanke's sway over financial markets has been on full display in recent weeks. When the Federal Reserve chairman speaks Wednesday to Congress, investors will once again parse each word for any subtle shift in the Fed's stance on interest rates.

Bernanke has sent financial markets plunging and surging the past two months, depending on whether he was seen as loosening or affirming the Fed's commitment to ultra-low interest rates. Low rates have fueled home sales, encouraged borrowing and spending, lifted stock prices and helped support economic growth.

Since the financial crisis erupted in 2008, the Fed

has kept its benchmark short-term interest rate near zero. And since late last year, it's been buying \$85 billion a month in mortgage and long-term Treasury bonds to try to reduce long-term rates and induce people and businesses to



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke responds to a question during a talk at the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Mass. (AP Photo/Josh Reynolds)

borrow and spend. The chairman's two days of testimony begin Wednesday

before the House Financial Services Committee. Bernanke is expected to be pressed about the state of the economy and his future at the Fed after his second four-year term as chairman ends in January. But financial markets will be

its bond buying.

His recent public remarks have baffled investors.

After the Fed's last meeting June 18-19, Bernanke sketched a rough timetable for the Fed's bond purchases: He said that if the Fed's expectations for moderate economic growth and a gradually stronger job market prove accurate, it could start scaling back its bond buying later this year and end it around mid-2014. Bernanke said he thought the unemployment rate would then be about 7 percent. It's now 7.6 percent. Bernanke's comments were generally in line with what economists had been expecting. Yet his words sent stocks plunging. The Dow Jones industrial average sank 560 points in two days. Investors feared Bernanke's com-

ments meant the Fed was ready to let rates rise sooner and faster than they'd expected. Since then, the chairman and other Fed officials have sought to calm investors. They've stressed that the Fed won't pull back on its stimulus unless the evidence was clear that the economy and the job market were improving as much as the Fed had forecast. If not, the Fed would keep its support intact. It might even increase its stimulus if felt the economy needed more support. The stock market gradually recovered. And when Bernanke reinforced his go-slow message at a conference last week near Boston, the stock market celebrated: The Dow and the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index reached all-time highs. □

US homebuilder confidence, sales outlook soar

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

U.S. homebuilders are feeling more optimistic about their home sales prospects than they have in more than seven years, a trend that suggests home construction will accelerate in coming months.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Tuesday jumped to 57 this month from 51 in June. It was the third consecutive monthly gain.

A reading above 50 indicates more builders view sales conditions as good, rather than poor. The index hasn't been that high since January 2006, well before the housing market

crashed. Measures of customer traffic, current sales conditions and builders' outlook for single-family home sales over the next six months vaulted to their highest levels in at least seven years.

"Builders are seeing more motivated buyers coming through their doors as the inventory of existing homes for sale continues to tighten," said David Crowe, the NAHB's chief economist. The latest confidence index, based on responses from 281 builders, points to continued improvement for new home construction, which remains a key source of growth for the economy.

Last month, Federal Re-

serve Chairman Ben Bernanke cited housing gains as a major reason the Fed's economic outlook has brightened.

Steady hiring and low mortgage rates have encouraged more people to buy homes over the past year. But the inventory of previously occupied homes on the market has declined sharply in many markets. On a national level, it was down 10 percent in May from prior-year levels as sales rose to an annual rate of 5.18 million.

With demand up, prices rising and few homes on the market, builders have grown more optimistic about their prospects, stepping up construction. □

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HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press
CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's interim leader swore in a Cabinet on Tuesday that included women and Christians but no Islamists as the military-backed administration moved swiftly to formalize the new political order and present a more liberal face that is markedly at odds

shed that has marked the days following the armed forces coup that swept President Mohammed Morsi from office and cracked down on the Muslim Brotherhood. Egypt's military already wields great influence behind the scenes, and the army chief, Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who ousted

does not include members of any Islamist parties — a sign of the enduring division that follows the removal of Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president. The interim president's spokesman had earlier said posts would be offered to the Muslim Brotherhood, but the group promptly refused, saying it would not

supported Morsi's ouster — the ultraconservative Salafi el-Nour party — was not represented and criticized the leadership as "biased," lacking inclusion and repeating "the same mistake the last government was blamed for." U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said he had talked with el-Sissi about 10

Roadside IED hits Hezbollah convoy near Syria border

BASSEM MROUE
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press
BEIRUT (AP) — A roadside bomb struck an SUV carrying Hezbollah members near Lebanon's border with Syria on Tuesday, wounding at least two people in the second attack targeting the Lebanese Shiite Muslim group in a week. A police official said the vehicle appeared to have been part of a two-car Hezbollah convoy heading to Syria and that the two casualties were transported in ambulances affiliated with the group to a hospital in Beirut. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief journalists, said it was not immediately clear whether the bombing was an assassination attempt. It is the latest fallout for Lebanon from the civil war in Syria, where an estimated 5,000 people are being killed every month, according to the United Nations.

Lebanon, long troubled by Syria's civil war and its potential to overwhelm its smaller neighbor, has been on edge since a powerful car bomb last Tuesday in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs wounded 53 people. To many in Lebanon, that blast confirmed fears that the Iranian-backed group, a staunch ally of President Bashar Assad's government, would face retaliation for its now overt role fighting alongside Assad's troops inside Syria. As Hezbollah's hand in the Syrian conflict has become public, Lebanon has seen a spike in Sunni-Shiite tensions that has sparked gun battles in several cities around the country. □



Interim President Adly Mansour, center, with his new cabinet ministers at the presidential palace in Cairo, Egypt. The new government, sworn in Tuesday, is led by Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi, an economist, and features the promotion of Defence Minister Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who ousted Mohammed Morsi on July 3, to deputy prime minister. He also retains the defense portfolio. (AP Photo/Egyptian Presidency)

with the deposed president and his supporters. The changes came at a time of deep polarization and violence in Egypt, including new clashes that killed seven people as part of the continuing blood-

Morsi on July 3, was given a promotion in the Cabinet. He became a first deputy prime minister in addition to keeping his post as defense minister. For most of the two years since the overthrow of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, the country has been split into two camps — one led by Morsi, his Muslim Brotherhood and its Islamist allies, and another led by secular Egyptians, liberals, Christians and moderate Muslims. The fault lines remain, except that the Islamist camp is no longer in power. It

take part in the military-backed political process and would continue protests until the legitimately elected Morsi is reinstated. "We refuse to even discuss it," a senior official of the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm, the Freedom and Justice party, told The Associated Press. "What is built on illegitimacy is illegal," he said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media before the party issued a formal statement on the formation of the Cabinet. The only Islamist party that

times in the past week. "We have encouraged publicly and privately the leaders of Egypt, including the interim president, the interim vice president, and the prime minister in particular, to be inclusive, to bring all political parties in, to allow them to participate in the writing of the constitution and the elections," Hagel told reporters in Florida. "That's the only way it will work. We've been very clear on that." Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi, an economist in his 70s, leads the government of 33 other ministers. □

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Jordan:

Kerry mulling visit to Syrian refugee camp

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday he may visit a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan as he launched a new round of Middle East diplomacy amid deteriorating conditions in Syria and the ongoing unrest in Egypt.

On his sixth trip to the region in as many months as America's top diplomat, Kerry said in Amman that he wanted to visit Syrian refugees to hear their concerns about the situation in the country, where western- and Gulf Arab-backed opposition forces appear to be losing ground to President Bashar Assad's regime.

"I think we may wind up visiting one of the refugee camps as we talk about Syria," he told reporters after a meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh. "We were just talking about the importance of that."

Judeh said Kerry had expressed concerns about the economic impact that the humanitarian crisis in Syria has had in Jordan, which hosts more than a half million displaced Syrians.

State Department officials said Kerry's visit to a refugee camp was not finalized but that he had expressed interest in going to one before he is scheduled to return to the United States on Thursday.

Should the visit materialize, it would be the first by an Obama administration Cabinet-level figure to Syrian refugees, some of whom have complained about a

lack of U.S. support. In addition, Syrian rebels have complained that they are not receiving promised military assistance from Washington.

Kerry is in Jordan for a meeting on Wednesday with Arab foreign ministers to brief them on his efforts to get the Israelis and Palestinians back to the negotiating table. He had pledged earlier this year to update the Arab League nations that support a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace plan first proposed by Saudi Arabia. He is also expected to discuss U.S. strategy for Syria and Egypt since the military ouster of the country's first democratically elected president.

It had been expected that the peace process would be a central focus of his trip, but unlike on his previous visits, he had no plans to travel to Israel or the Palestinian Authority. U.S. officials have dampened expectations that there would be any kind of breakthrough or announcement on resuming direct talks.

After meeting Judeh on Tuesday, Kerry was to have a private, one-on-one dinner with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who has a home in Amman.

Kerry has spent hours with Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu trying to set the stage for a return to peace talks that foundered and collapsed in 2008. Kerry insists that progress has been made but there have been few, if any, discernible signs that the two sides are getting closer to agreeing to discuss the major issues that divide them. □



Jordan's Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh (R) speaks during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at a hotel in Amman. Kerry was meeting Jordanian leaders on a fresh trip to the Middle East focused on advancing the peace talks amid turmoil in Egypt and Syria.

(AP Photo/Mandel Ngan)

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Greece hit by general strike over state job cuts

DEREK GATOPOULOS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Unions opposing austerity measures in Greece staged their fourth general strike this year on Tuesday, as the government prepared to start axing public sector jobs.

Several thousand protesters, most wearing caps to shield themselves from the midsummer heat, joined a march to parliament, as the 24-hour walkout disrupted flights, public transport, state hospitals and other services.

More demonstrations are planned later in the day, while local government offices remain closed for a second day.

Although the march ended peacefully, protest organizers directed angry rhetoric at the government and the "troika" of debt inspectors from the European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund.

"You politicians, kowtowing to the troika, have raped our souls, destroyed our lives," Nikolaos Kiout-



Member of pro-communist union PAME take part in an anti-austerity rally during a 24-hour general strike in Athens, Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

soukis, general secretary of Greece's largest union, the GSEE, told gathered protesters.

"Do not test our patience any longer ... We are hun-

gry, jobless and poor. We have nothing to fear and nothing to lose."

The public sector has so far been spared from the job cuts that have hit the rest of

the Greek economy — and pushed unemployment up to 27 percent — since the country got its first international bailout in 2010.

However, the government has been forced to launch the cuts — 15,000 firings by the end of 2014 and 12,500 transfers this year — so it can continue receiving rescue loans from the IMF and the other countries using the euro.

Parliament began a debate on the new measures before a vote expected late Wednesday.

"It's a disgrace for the government to say that things are getting better with unemployment at such a high level ...

It is clear that with the economy still shrinking that we need a change of

course," Efklidis Tsakalotos, a lawmaker from the left-wing main opposition party Syriza told parliament.

"The people running this country live in a different environment.

They go to different hospitals. Their kids go to different schools. And they don't understand what people are going through."

Syriza lawmakers later stood on the steps of parliament and unfurled a banner that read "Fire the government, not workers in the public and private sector."

Formed after elections last summer, the conservative-led government lost a junior coalition partner last month following a sudden decision to shut down state broadcaster ERT. □

Diplomat: Sudan leader al-Bashir has fled Nigeria

BASHIR ADIGUN

MICHELLE FAUL

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir has left Nigeria, the spokesman at his embassy

said Tuesday, following demands from human rights activists for his arrest over charges of genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

Spokesman Mohammed Moiz said al-Bashir left to

fulfill another engagement. Moiz said he left Abuja, Nigeria's capital, at 3 p.m. Monday, less than 24 hours after he arrived and in the middle of a two-day summit ending Tuesday.

Nigeria's Vanguard newspaper reported that the Sudanese leader was expected to make a presentation Monday afternoon at an African Union summit but failed to show up.

"Business as usual is over for this head of state suspected of the most serious crimes committed in Darfur," said Elise Keppler of New York-based Human Rights Watch. "Al-Bashir faced intense pressure for his arrest from local activists when he tried to visit Nigeria, including court action." Rights lawyers filed a suit in the Federal High Court on Monday to try to compel Nigeria's government to arrest al-Bashir. And a civil

rights group urgently appealed to the International Criminal Court to refer the government to the United Nations Security Council for allowing the visit. Presidential spokesman Reuben Abati told The Associated Press that al-Bashir had come to attend the African Union summit, and not at Nigeria's invitation. He said Nigeria allowed him to come in line with instructions from the African Union, which has told its 53 member states not to cooperate with the European-based court that some accuse of targeting Africans. The International Criminal Court said it demanded Monday that Nigeria "immediately arrest" the fugitive. It noted that it could refer the Nigerian government to the United Nations Security Council for failing to execute an order of the court, of which it is a member. □

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Romania: Museum checks if paintings stolen from Netherlands burned

ALISON MUTLER
Associated Press
BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)

stove to see if they are the remains of seven paintings by Picasso, Matisse, Monet

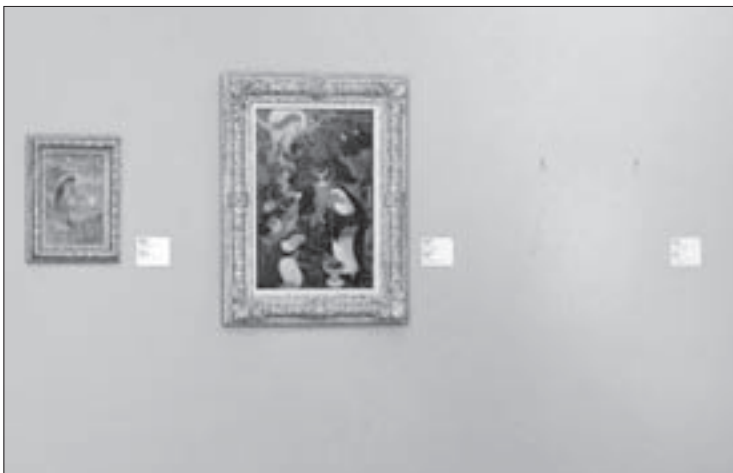


Photo shows the empty space where Henri Matisse' painting "La Liseuse en Blanc et Jaune" was hanging, right, is seen next to a painting by Maurice Denis, center, and Pierre Bonnard, left, at Kunsthal museum in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

— A Romanian museum is analyzing ashes found in a stove to see if they are the remains of seven paintings by Picasso, Matisse, Monet and others that were stolen last year from the Netherlands, an official said Tuesday.

Prosecutor spokeswoman Gabriela Chiru told The Associated Press that Romania's National History Museum is examining the ashes found in the stove of Olga Dogaru. She is the mother of Radu Dogaru, one of three Romanian suspects charged with stealing the paintings from Rotterdam's Kunsthal gallery in a brazen daytime heist.

It was the biggest art theft in more than a decade in the Netherlands. The stolen works have an estimated value of tens of millions of dollars if they were sold at auction.

Dogaru told investigators she was scared for her son after he was arrested in

January and buried the art in an abandoned house and then in a cemetery in the village of Caracliu. She said she later dug them up and burned them in February after police began searching the village for the stolen works.

Chiru indicated that authorities did not necessarily believe Dogaru's account. She said it could take months for the results of the tests to be known.

Thieves broke in Oct. 16 through a rear emergency exit at the gallery in the Netherlands, grabbed the paintings off the wall and fled, all within two minutes. Police who arrived less than five minutes after the break-in triggered an alarm found nothing but

empty spaces on the walls, broken hanging wires and tire tracks in grass behind the gallery.

The stolen paintings were: Pablo Picasso's 1971 "Harlequin Head"; Claude Monet's 1901 "Waterloo Bridge, London" and "Charing Cross Bridge, London"; Henri Matisse's 1919 "Reading Girl in White and Yellow"; Paul Gauguin's 1898 "Girl in Front of Open Window"; Meyer de Haan's "Self-Portrait," around 1890; and Lucian Freud's 2002 work "Woman with Eyes Closed."

Radu Dogaru, the alleged ringleader, as well as the two other suspects remain in custody as investigators seek the paintings and other evidence. □

State TV won't show Miss Italia; pageant not happy

MICHELE BARBERO
Associated Press
ROME (AP)

— The organizer of Italy's Miss Italia beauty pageant is criticizing the state-run television network's decision not to broadcast this year's contest, a step that comes as audiences for the show have dwindled and amid pressure to improve how women are portrayed in the Italian media.

Miss Italia's finals have been shown on RAI in September for 25 years. But the broadcaster's general director,

Luigi Gubitosi, was quoted as saying Tuesday by the Italian news agency ANSA that "the format by now has become outdated." Scantily-clad women are a mainstay of much of Italian TV, with everything from quiz shows to talk shows featuring leggy showgirls on state channels as well as on private networks. The formula was championed by media mogul Silvio Berlusconi on the nation's three main private networks before he became a political leader. □

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Clinton urges Puerto Rico to lessen oil dependence

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton urged Puerto Rico to develop a renewable energy strategy and help lead the Caribbean in becoming less dependent on petroleum during a forum Tuesday in the U.S. territory.

Clinton said the island has the resources necessary to launch various clean energy projects that would also help drive down power bills, which are about twice that of the U.S. mainland on average.

"In the Caribbean you find, unbelievably, the highest electric rates in the world on average," said Clinton, who established the Clinton Foundation to target initiatives ranging from those that fight climate change and AIDS to those that support small businesses.

He also warned the region would be one of the first hit by climate change effects. "The way we produce and consume energy cannot be maintained without severe, adverse consequences," he said. "There is no question that the climate is changing at an unsustainable rate."

Puerto Rico depends on petroleum to generate nearly 70 percent of its power, but the government in recent years has unveiled several renewable energy projects in a push to drive down costs and cut greenhouse emissions.

Last year, officials unveiled the Caribbean's largest solar farm in the southern coastal town of Guayama. The \$96 million project features more than 100,000 photovoltaic panels that can power some 6,500 homes a year. The project

began operating in October and was built by AES Solar, a company based in Arlington, Virginia.

The Caribbean's largest wind farm also began operating last year in the southern coastal town of Santa Isabel. The \$200 million farm features 44 turbines that can produce up to 95 megawatts of renew-

mation in the way we produce, seek, distribute and consume energy," he said. Clinton urged Garcia to also consider installing solar panels on buildings given the number of flat roofs that exist across the island. He said the territory also could help bolster its economy by manufacturing solar panels for cus-

tomers in the Caribbean. He pledged involvement of the Clinton Foundation. Department of Natural Resources Secretary Carmen Guerrero said that a University of Puerto Rico study found the island has enough rooftops to meet all its energy demands through solar panels.

Fortuno also had sought to



Former President Bill Clinton looks out over his eyeglasses during a forum on renewable energy in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, July 16, 2013. Clinton urged Puerto Rico to lessen its oil dependence and pursue clean energy alternatives.

able energy, enough to power some 30,000 homes a year. It was built by San Francisco-based Pattern Energy.

In April, Gestamp Wind, a division of the Spanish Gestamp Renewables, unveiled a \$90 million wind farm in the southeast town of Naguabo that features 13 turbines that can power 9,000 homes a year.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla said he aims to lessen Puerto Rico's oil dependence to 40 percent in five years by turning to natural gas.

"We're aware this plan requires a profound transfor-

tomers in the Caribbean. He pledged involvement of the Clinton Foundation. Department of Natural Resources Secretary Carmen Guerrero said that a University of Puerto Rico study found the island has enough rooftops to meet all its energy demands through solar panels.

"We have plenty of sun, wind, ocean," she said. "Yet we are almost 100 percent dependent on nonrenewable energy sources." The island's current clean energy projects feed the state-owned Electric Energy Authority, which is mired in debt and has struggled

build a 92-mile (148-kilometer) pipeline that environmentalists long protested given that it would cross through fragile ecosystems and archaeological sites. Fortuno said the pipeline would have saved \$1 billion a year and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 64 percent, but his administration withdrew plans for the project last year after investing more than \$50 million in it.

Garcia has said he seeks to produce 250 megawatts through clean energy by 2014, requiring \$500 million in investment that could generate some 500 jobs. □

LATIN BRIEFS

Venezuelan leader Maduro ties the knot

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his longtime companion, former Attorney General Cilia Flores, have married in a civil ceremony.

Maduro made the announcement Tuesday on state TV during a meeting with allied governors.

The two wed in a ceremony presided over by the ruling socialists' Caracas mayor, Jorge Rodriguez. Maduro tweeted photos.

Maduro and Flores have been a couple for two decades, ever since the failed 1992 coup led by the late President Hugo Chavez. Chavez's longtime foreign minister and chosen successor, the 50-year-old Maduro was elected president on April 14.

Flores has three children, Maduro one, both from previous unions.

Plane crash in north Brazil kills 3 of 6 aboard

SAO PAULO (AP) — Officials say a small twin-engine plane crashed seconds after takeoff in northern Brazil killing three of the six people aboard.

A press officer of Infraero, the state-run agency that runs the country's airports says the Beechcraft Baron 58 model aircraft exploded after crashing Tuesday at the end of one of the runways of the Eduardo Gomes International Airport in the city of Manaus. He declined to be identified in accordance with department policy. He says five passengers and the pilot were on the plane. □



Dutch delegation enjoys informative visit to Aruba's Airport



ORANJESTAD –The delegation of Dutch merchants and representatives of the Dutch Government that were on Aruba together with the Dutch Prime Minister Mr. Rutte visited Queen Beatrix International Airport, where Mr. Jurgen Benschop (Director Operations of AAA N.V.) together with Mr. Fons Essed (Legal Counsel of AAA N.V.) welcomed them for a very informative morning.

The goal of this visit was for the delegation to receive a better look at the airport operations and also to receive more information on the future plans with a special attention on the commercial aspect and ongoing projects, especially in the area of sustainable development.

Mr. Benschop gave a presentation to the delegation who was impressed with the functioning of the air-



port and all the efforts that the airport is doing to reduce its "Carbon Footprint" by implementing more energy efficient projects, such

as LED lights, Bio Diesel, modern air conditioning systems, solar energy, etc. The picture illustrates the delegation on their arrival

at the airport where they were welcomed by Mr. Benschop and Mr. Essed of Aruba Airport Authority N.V. □

Taking place at Renaissance Festival Plaza: Aruba set for 7th Edition Of Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival!



ORANJESTAD - On Wednesday June 5th the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival organization officially announced to the Aruban press that the festival's 7th edition will have a different location. On Friday October 4th and Saturday October 5th the

festival will take place at the Renaissance Festival Plaza. The organization speaks of three stages. The auditorium will be set up inside the Renaissance Convention Center and there will be two outdoor stages. The main stage will be located at the parking lot area of Renaissance Market Place.

As the festival has grown over the years, a new, more professional, location for this 7th edition was necessary to house the increasing amount of visitors. We are honoured with a world class partner like the Renaissance Group, in addition, the festival's name mentions "Sea" and it's location will be next to the ocean now.



Off course both Aruba and the Caribbean region were anxiously awaiting the names of performing artists during this festival. Confirmed are the legendary band El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico on October 4th and the famous Grammy-Award winner George Benson. Negotiations with a very popular singer from Latin America are still on-going. Other artists that will make their appearance du-



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ring the 7th edition of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival are Willy Garcia (ex-Grupo Niche and Son de Cali) from Colombia, José James from the USA, The Groovehunters from Curaçao and Giovanca from The Netherlands. More names will be confirmed during the upcoming weeks. Early Bird: At this moment the so called "Early Bird" tickets, at a price of \$35 per night, are available until July 31st, 2013. After this date on-line ticket pri-

ces will be \$50 each night. Tickets can be purchased online at www.caribbean-seajazz.com

VIP: Just like last year VIP tickets will be available for those who wish to enjoy unique and spectacular views from up high overlooking the audiences and stages.

For more information please contact Mark Benson Denz who is in charge of the festival's PR caribbeanseajazzpress@gmail.com or 592-5069. □



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U.S. tennis player Serena Williams serves a ball to Sessil Karatantcheva of Kazakhstan during their first round women's single match at the Swedish Open tennis tournament in Bastad, Sweden, Tuesday, July 16, 2013.
Associated Press

Serena Williams advances to 2nd round in Bastad

BASTAD, Sweden (AP) — Top-seeded Serena Williams advanced to the second round of the Swedish Open by beating Sessil Karatantcheva of Kazakhstan 6-1, 6-2 Tuesday. Williams broke Karatantcheva's serve five times, twice in the first set and three times in the second, to advance at the clay-court tournament on Sweden's west coast. She will next face Anna Tatishvili of Georgia, who beat 16-year-old Belinda Bencic of Switzerland 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. Third-seeded Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic, sixth-seeded Lesia Tsurenko of Ukraine, Mathilda Johansson of France, Teliana Pereira of Brazil, Richel Hogenkamp of the Netherlands and Andrea Gamiz of Venezuela also advanced. □

Cespedes wins All-Star HR Derby

MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Yoenis Cespedes outslugged Bryce Harper to win the All-Star Home Run Derby on Monday, becoming the first player left out of the annual All-Star game to take home the crown. Cespedes, an outfielder from Cuba who plays for the Oakland Athletics, beat Harper 9-8 in the final round at Citi Field, hitting the decisive, 455-foot drive with five swings to spare. It was his 32nd homer of the night.

Competing in the contest in only his second season in Major League Baseball, Cespedes hit a whopping 17 home runs in the first round — more than any other player managed in their first two trips to the plate.

"I felt that I was getting into a very good rhythm, and that as long as the ball was right over the plate, I felt like I was in a good groove," Cespedes said through a translator. "That was the key."

The final addition to the field, Cespedes was the fourth player not selected for the All-Star game to compete in the event. The 27-year-old has struggled this season, batting only .225 with 15 home runs.

The 20-year-old Harper hammered eight homers in all three rounds, but the Washington Nationals star couldn't keep up with Cespedes.

"He's incredible," Harper said. "He's an absolute machine."

Colorado outfielder Michael Cuddyer and Baltimore first baseman Chris Davis, who leads the majors with 37 homers this season, were eliminated in the second round. Davis tied Reggie Jackson for the American League home



American League's Yoenis Cespedes, of the Oakland Athletics, watches his hit during the MLB All-Star baseball Home Run Derby, on Monday, July 15, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

run record before the All-Star break.

Also knocked out early were defending champi-

on Prince Fielder, the only player besides Ken Griffey Jr. to win multiple Home Run Derby crowns, and

American League captain Robinson Cano of the New York Yankees, who made Cespedes his final pick. □

Just as Knicks get World Peace, they lose Smith

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Just as they got Metta World Peace, the New York Knicks lost J.R. Smith.

So the enthusiasm over landing a player that general manager Glen Grunwald says could be the Knicks' "missing piece" was tempered by the news they could start next season without one of their key contributors.

Smith dealt with knee pain all season and wanted the chance to deal with it his way in the summer.

When it wouldn't get better, he agreed to surgery that could have him on the sideline when next season opens.

The Sixth Man of the Year had patella tendon surgery and an arthroscopy on his left knee to repair a tear in the lateral meniscus on Monday, news the Knicks announced shortly after World Peace said he

was signing with his hometown team.

Smith is expected to miss 12 to 16 weeks, meaning he may not be back until after the season starts. That could have been avoided if the surgery was done sometime sooner in the nearly two months since the Knicks' season ended. "The decision is J.R.'s and he wanted to give it a chance to heal without having to have surgery and that's perfectly understandable," Grunwald said Tuesday on a conference call. "But we went through a period of rehab and it didn't get better, so he was stepped up and got the surgery. We're hopeful that he'll be ready for the time the regular season rolls around."

Grunwald said Smith had trouble with the knee even before training camp began last season. Smith would go on to have his best NBA season, helping

the Knicks win 54 games and reach the second round of the playoffs, though he struggled badly in the postseason.

Perhaps that was due in part to his knee problems. "He struggled toward the end there but to his credit he battled through it," Grunwald said. "I don't think it got any worse over the summer months after the season ended, but it didn't get any better."

The conference call was planned to discuss the signing of World Peace, which became official Tuesday. But Grunwald faced more questions about the delay regarding Smith, whom the Knicks re-signed to a four-year contract earlier this month. Though Grunwald repeatedly said he hopes Smith can return before the season starts, the Knicks believe World Peace can help them get by if not.

"We love Metta's heart and his spirits and his tough-



In this May 5, 2013, photo, New York Knicks guard J.R. Smith (8) drives past Indiana Pacers forward Paul George (24) during Game 1 of a second-round NBA basketball series in New York. Associated Press

ness. We think he has a lot left to give in all those different ways in addition to his skill level on the court," Grunwald said. "We're excited to have him and we think he's going to be a big contributor to our team." The Knicks, of course, could have had him 14 years

ago, when they famously passed on the player — known then as Ron Artest — with the No. 15 pick in the 1999 draft when the New York native came out of St. John's, instead taking French center Frederic Weis, who never played for them. □

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All-Star game played under drug cloud

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Davis knows power surges lead to suspicion in the 21st century. The debate has even trickled down to clubhouse banter.

"We always joke about it — how many home runs did you hit today?" the Baltimore Orioles slugger recounted.

"You hit two — well, you better be hydrated tomorrow."

Translation: make sure you drink enough fluids to produce a urine sample for a doping test.

It's hard to talk about MVPs — Most Valuable Players — these days without discussing PEDs — or performance-enhancing drugs.

Davis leads the major leagues with 37 home runs, matching Reggie Jackson in 1969 for most by an American League player at the All-Star break. He's among a record 39 first-time All-Stars as baseball paused for its midsummer celebration at Citi Field.

But up ahead, more suspensions for performance-



American League's Chris Davis of the Baltimore Orioles hits during the second round of the MLB All-Star baseball Home Run Derby, Monday, July 15, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

enhancing drugs appear imminent. Union head Michael Weiner said before Tuesday's game he expects Major League Baseball will complete its investigation within a month and speak with the players' association to determine the mechanics of discipline, which would be subject to grievances and arbitration.

Last year, San Francisco outfielder Melky Cabrera was MVP of the All-Star game, then was suspended five weeks later for 50 games following a positive test for testosterone. Four All-Stars this year — San Diego shortstop Everth Cabrera, Oakland pitcher Bartolo Colon, Texas outfielder Nelson Cruz and Detroit shortstop Jhonny Peralta — have been linked in media reports to Biogenesis, the closed Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing PEDs.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig maintains he's not concerned the showcase could be decided by a player who may be disciplined when his probe is concluded.

"Whatever happens, happens. Given our knowledge today, that's not frustrating at all," he said.

Selig says players have complained to him that the vast majority who comply with the sport's drug rules have been tarnished along with those who think they can get away with using banned performance-boosters. □

Woods looking for 1 key shot to turn his fortunes

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer
GULLANE, Scotland (AP) — British Open champions at Muirfield are more likely to be found on a ballot for the Hall of Fame than the bottom of a betting sheet. It has never been known as a haven for long shots, which would seem to bode well for someone like Tiger Woods.

Even so, Woods struggled to find the right definition of an "outsider" when asked Tuesday about the trend of high-caliber winners at

Muirfield. Because if an "outsider" is someone who had never won a major, then all bets are off.

"You probably can't say that given the fact that over the past, what, five years or so ... that we've had first-time winners at virtually every single major," Woods said. "The fields are so deep now and the margin between the first player and the last player in the field is not that big anymore. It's very small."

Eighteen players have won the last 20 majors, the most

diverse collection of major champions in some 25 years. Fourteen of them had never won a major. Perhaps it was more than just a coincidence when Woods dated this trend to the last five years.

Because that's when he stopped winning them.

"There's certainly a connection between so many different winners and Tiger not winning one," Graeme McDowell said. "Because we all know when he gets in the mood, he likes to win a few. I think in the period

when Tiger kind of went missing for a couple of years there, it gave a lot of players a chance to step up to the plate and show how healthy the game of golf is, get their confidence up and win the big ones and really get a bit of belief in themselves. "But I think Tiger has been responsible for raising the bar," he said.

"I think he certainly has set the standard for how good guys can be."

Times sure have changed since the British Open last came to this links course

along the Firth of Forth. In 2002, the question was whether Woods was going to win all four majors in a single year. Eleven years later, not a major goes by without him being asked when he's going to win one — any of them — again.

The drought is at 16 majors, stretched over five years, since Woods hobbled and winced his way to a play-off win at Torrey Pines in the 2008 U.S. Open for his 14th career major, leaving him four short of the standard set by Jack Nicklaus. □

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In this July 11, 2013, file image Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme arrives prior to the start of the twelfth stage of the Tour de France in Fougères, western France. Associated Press

Tour director: Nothing to say to women riders

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

VAISON-LA-ROMAINE, France (AP) — Swatting the air dismissively with the back of his hand, the Tour de France director said Tuesday he has nothing to say to a group of women cyclists hoping to ride in their version of the sport's greatest race.

Before the start of Tuesday's 16th stage, Christian Prudhomme brushed off a question seeking his response about an online letter and petition for a women's event next year.

The signatories don't seek to have women race against men, but to have a professional women's field racing in parallel over the same distances, on the same days, and with an organization such that the two races don't conflict.

"We are saying nothing for the moment," Prudhomme told The Associated Press in the southeastern town of Vaison-la-Romaine. The former journalist then walked away. Through a

Tour spokesman, the AP had sought a comment from Prudhomme four days ago about a petition by a group of cyclists including Marianne Vos of the Netherlands, an Olympic gold medalist and road race world champion, and Olympian Emma Pooley of Britain. No response was given until Tuesday.

The petition says many women's sports "face battles of inequity," but "road cycling remains one of the worst offenders."

Signatories agree that, "Women should be on the starting line of the 101st Tour de France in 2014."

In the online letter to Prudhomme, the cyclists said that after 100 editions of the Tour, it's "about time" that women were allowed to race. A "Tour Feminin" women's race in France was staged in the past, but not since 2009, and it "lacked parity, media coverage, and sponsorship," the letter read. Pooley won the 2009 race, and Vos placed third. □

Froome keeps yellow and sees red at Contador

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

GAP, France (AP) — Chris Froome preserved his healthy overall lead after a nervous finish to Tuesday's 16th stage, and then blamed his main Tour de France rival Alberto Contador for a downhill incident that could have ended their races.

Portuguese rider Rui Costa won the stage with a solo breakaway, while behind him the subplot between Contador and Froome thickened with a few days left until the finish line in Paris. Although Froome is still more than four minutes clear of Contador, the British rider felt he could just as easily have ended up in hospital.

"One little accident and it could be the end of your Tour," Froome said. "In my opinion it was a bit dangerous from Alberto to ride like that, it's not good."

On the final descent down from the Col de Manse, Froome and Contador were undone by a sharp right turn as the Brit chased after the Spaniard.

Froome went off the left side of the road and had to plant his left foot on the ground to stop from toppling off completely. Contador also lost balance and hit his knee on the ground before quickly jumping back up on the bike.

"It actually put me in danger because I had to go off the road to avoid him," Froome said. "He couldn't control his own speed and crashed."

Contador, the 2007 and '09 champion stripped of his '10 title for doping, defended himself.

"It was really difficult. In nor-



Rui Alberto Costa of Portugal celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the sixteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 168 kilometers (105 miles) with start in Vaison-la-Romaine and finish in Gap, France, Tuesday July 16, 2013. Associated Press

mal conditions I wouldn't have slipped like that, but it was very difficult terrain and the bike got away from me," he said. "Sometimes you have to go for it, whether it's at the start or the end of a stage." The incident was chillingly reminiscent of the 2003 Tour when Spaniard Joseba Beloki broke his right arm, elbow and wrist after crashing on the descent from Manse.

He lost control of his bike going into a turn at full speed and flew across the road. Lance Armstrong, stripped of his seven Tour titles for serial doping, was riding just behind him and had to take sharp evasive action, swerving off the road and then running across a small field before re-mounting his bike.

"At the moment I'm trying to take as least risks as I can," Froome said. "Everyone knows it's a dangerous descent and we've seen a lot of images from the past ... But I didn't think guys were going to take unnecessary risks there."

Froome seemed to be more than a little exasper-

ated, and his radar will be on red alert in the days to come.

"All teams are starting to get desperate now and they're taking uncalculated risks," he said. "In my mind this Tour is not over until I cross the final line on the Champs-Élysées."

Meanwhile, Costa broke away on the 9.5-kilometer (6-mile) ascent to Manse — the last of the day's three moderate climbs — to secure the second stage win of his Tour career, after winning another hilly stage up to Super Besse ski station in 2011. He crossed the line 42 seconds ahead of Frenchman Christophe Riblon.

"I knew exactly what I had to do, and every second that I gained going uphill was useful at the end," Costa said through a translator. Froome and Contador finished more than 11 minutes behind Costa, who is not considered to be a contender.

About halfway up Manse, Contador attacked, but Richie Porte responded and got Sky teammate Froome back on Contador's wheel. □

Joyful Heart - By: Dr Carlos Viana

While interning in Shanghai as a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) physician, I learned that an energetic heart allows the expression of joy. The literary word for lightening the mood of something is "leaven"; as in "readers tell me that these weekly articles leaven or enliven their mood". The Modern Greek word "leaven" is "enzumos" that yields the word enzyme. Enzymes are proteins produced by the cells that control or "turn on" thousands of body reactions.

One enzyme family is digestive enzymes, which help the body naturally, digest food, a good thing. Plant digestives, like Bromelain from pineapple AND Beta Pepsin or Hydrochloric Acid (HCL) are good supplement choices for overeating or eating the wrong foods. But even good things need help, like Phyllis, without whose organization skills, I would accomplish very little. Similarly, an important partner that helps enzymes work are coenzymes. The prefix "co" means together or jointly, like co-worker.

One coenzyme that is getting a lot of attention is Coenzyme10 or CoQ10. This supplement is widely used in Japan to treat angina, severe chest pains because of a lack of blood to the heart. Pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, swelling of the ankles, legs or abdomen, and increased urination, are all symptoms that may signal that the heart cannot pump sufficient blood to keep pace with the energy demands of the body,

congestive heart failure. If you suspect any of the above, it may be a good idea to have a check-up. CoQ10 is found in every cell in the body. CoQ10 assists enzymes in bringing oxygen into the cells and producing energy needed for cell growth and maintenance. It is also used by the body as an antioxidant. An antioxidant is a substance that protects cells from unhealthy chemicals called free radicals. Free radicals are highly reactive chemicals that can damage parts of cells, including DNA. DNA is a molecule inside cells that carries genetic information and passes it from one generation to the next. This damage may play a role in the development of cancer. Low blood levels of CoQ10 have been found in patients with bone, lymph gland, breast, lung, prostate, pancreas, colon, kidney, and other cancers. Think of CoQ10 as an accelerator pedal in your car that sends more fuel to your heart. If the fuel is not available, symptoms of congestive heart failure develop. The fuel for your body is ATP whose structure includes a sugar called ribose. Combining the dietary supplement D-ribose together with CoQ10 is an energizing combination.

As a Clinical Nutritionist I always recommend CoQ10 be taken together with complementary or "co-worker" supplements; because absorption of CoQ10 into your body is poor. In fact, probably over 60 percent of most oral doses of CoQ10 are

excreted by the body without being used. Absorption of CoQ10 is greater when taken together with food that has a good quality fat content, like olive oil, wild caught salmon and butter (notice I did not say margarine). Because of this, I always recommend taking CoQ10 together with a fat or oil, like Omega 3 or Alpha-lipoic acid. Quality dietary supplement manufactures are now producing CoQ10 with enhanced absorption or bioavailability by surrounding each CoQ10 molecule with tiny fat cells of good fats like alpha-lipoic acid

Most modern diets are deficient in Omega 3's and adding Flax seed oil or Fish oils, to a daily supplement program, which includes vitamin C, Magnesium, Zinc and Lecithin is what I feel is a great basic dietary plan. Of course, not everybody utilizes or absorbs the same. If you have any health concerns, visit a clinical nutritionist to be sure you are getting the right combination of co-workers for your needs

Another super oil or fat is alpha lipoic acid which is known as the "universal antioxidant". It has the ability to conserve and prolong the life of vitamins C & E in the body, increasing their effectiveness. Alpha lipoic acid is also an excellent metal detoxifier, particularly for mercury and cadmium.

In Germany, alpha-lipoic acid is an approved medical treatment for nerve damage and pain, a common complication of diabetes. It speeds the



removal of glucose from the bloodstream, at least partly by enhancing insulin function, and it reduces insulin resistance, the foundation of many cases of coronary heart disease and obesity. The richest food source of alpha-lipoic acid is red meat.

Alpha lipoic acid binds easily with CoQ10 making it better absorbed by your body. Because of insufficient dietary intake of healthy oils, taking alpha-lipoic acid together with CoQ10 is a good way to increase absorption of both. These two supplements in combination are extremely effective for prolonging cellular vitality and reducing the body's production of unhealthy free radicals. ALA and CoQ10 also enhance production of ATP which is the body's form of energy. D-Ribose alone can help your body refuel and stay energized a must for athletes, older individuals, exhausted parents or anyone with busy lives. Together, ALA with CoQ10 and D-ribose help produce much more energy for all body functions, including exercise and relaxing and recovery of the body's muscles. This is a joyous thing, especially for the heart.

Get The Point! Dietary

supplements are important tools that can be used to maintain or return health; but, like carpentry tools, knowledge on how to use them is instrumental. An appointment with a clinical nutritionist can identify your personal needs and introduce the correct co-workers to do the best job. My biocompatible protocol also includes heavy metal and other detoxification and acupuncture, a treatment that rebalances the body's energy, relaxes tight muscles and increases the effectiveness of dietary supplements. Want to allow more joy into your heart? Check out this and more in my book or call to make an appointment.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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Court sides with Yahoo in data collection case

TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Yahoo has won a court fight that could help the public learn more about the U.S. government's efforts to obtain data from Internet users.

The U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which reviews government requests to spy on individuals, ruled Monday that information should be made public about a 2008 case that ordered Yahoo Inc. to turn over customer data. The order requires the government to review which portions of the opinion, briefs and arguments can be declassified and report back to the court by July 29.

The government sought the information from Yahoo under the National Security Agency's PRISM data-gathering program. Details of the secret program were disclosed by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, who has fled the U.S.

The program came to light in early June after



This Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012 file photo, shows a sign in front of Yahoo! headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif.

The Washington Post and Guardian newspapers published documents provided by Snowden. It allows the NSA to reach into the data streams of U.S. companies such as Yahoo, Facebook Inc., Microsoft Corp., Google Inc. and others, and grab emails, video chats, pictures and more. U.S. officials have

said the program is narrowly focused on foreign targets, and technology companies say they turn over information only if required by court order.

Yahoo requested in court papers filed June 14 to have the information about the 2008 case unsealed. A Yahoo spokeswoman hailed Monday's decision

and said the company believes it will help inform public discussion about the U.S. government's surveillance programs.

The government hasn't taken a position on whether details of the case should be published as long as it's allowed to review the documents before publication

in order to redact classified information, according to the court order.

Mark Rumold, a staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation specializing in electronic surveillance and national security issues, called the ruling incremental and said he was reserving judgment until the case details are actually released.

"It remains to be seen how forthcoming (the government) will be," Rumold said.

"The administration has said they want a debate about the propriety of the surveillance, but they haven't really provided information to inform that debate. So declassifying these opinions is a very important place to start."

The unsealing of such secret rulings is not unprecedented, but it is rare. The last time that happened, Rumold said, was in 2002, in a case regarding the Patriot Act, which was enacted after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to give law enforcement agencies more tools to fight terrorism. □

Associated Press

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Stocks decline on earns; Schwab's Q2 misses expectations

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A string of lackluster earnings reports from companies including Coca-Cola and Charles Schwab ended Tuesday an eight-day winning streak for the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Coca-Cola, the world's largest beverage maker, fell after the company said it sold less soda in its home market of North America. Retail brokerage Charles Schwab's second-quarter earnings fell short of what analysts were expecting. Marathon Petroleum fell after the fuel refiner forecast weak earnings and said its business was being hurt by renewable fuels laws.

"The expectations out there for earnings overall, they're pretty modest," said Scott Wren, senior equity strategist at Wells Fargo. "Earnings season is not going to be what drives the market from here." The Dow Jones industrial average fell 32.41 points, 0.2 percent, to 15,451.85. The Standard & Poor's 500 index declined 6.24 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,676.26. The Nasdaq composite dropped 8.99 points, or 0.3 percent, to 3,598.50. Eight of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 fell. The declines were led by materials companies. Phone companies and technology companies were the two groups that gained.

Coke dropped 78 cents, or 1.9 percent, to \$40.23 after the company reported that

to \$21 after its earnings came in short of analysts' expectations as expenses

\$69.93.

"Expectations for earnings growth this quarter are fairly subdued," said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist for RDM Financial Group. "However, the important thing for investors is to look ahead to the second half of the year, where earnings are supposed to pick up significantly."

Overall S&P 500 earnings are expected to grow by 3.4 percent in the second quarter from the same period a year ago, according to data from S&P Capital IQ. The rate of earnings growth is predicted to rise in the third and fourth quarters, reaching 11.6 percent in the final three months of the year. The stock market has climbed back to record levels following a brief slump in June, when the S&P 500 logged its first monthly decline since October on concern that the Federal Reserve would ease back on its economic stimulus too quickly. The S&P 500 gained for eight straight trading sessions through Monday, its longest winning streak since January. Had the index ended higher Tuesday, it would have marked the longest series of advances since 2004.

The index is up 4.4 percent in July, putting it on track to log its biggest monthly gain since January, when it rose 5 percent.

Stocks got a boost last week when Bernanke said the central bank would not ease its stimulus before the economy was ready. Investors will be listening to his comments again this week for more clues about the central bank's outlook for the economy. The Fed chairman will give his semi-annual testimony to Congress on Wednesday. That testimony may have more impact on the stock market this week than any earnings reports, said Wells Fargo's Wren.

Esther George, the President of Kansas City branch of the Fed, and a voting member of the committee that sets the Fed's monetary policy, said Tuesday that the central bank should cut back on its stimulus as the labor market begins to recover.



A sign for Wall Street is shown outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York. The stock market declined Wednesday after a string of lackluster earnings reports.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

its second-quarter profit fell 4 percent. Charles Schwab fell 71 cents, or 3.3 percent,

rose and its interest margins fell. Marathon Petroleum fell \$3.17, or 4.3 percent, to

Yahoo's 2Q earnings rise 46 pct, revenue sinks

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yahoo's second-quarter results didn't give investors a reason to celebrate the completion of CEO Marissa Mayer's first year running the Internet company.

The numbers released Tuesday showed Yahoo Inc.'s earnings are still rising, but they also highlighted the challenges facing the Sunnyvale, California, company as it loses ground to rivals Google Inc. and Facebook Inc. in the online advertising market that generates most of their revenue.

Wall Street focused on Yahoo's revenue problems instead of its earnings gains. The company's stock dipped 48 cents, or nearly 2 percent, to \$26.45 in extended trading after the report came out.

Despite that downturn, Yahoo's shares have surged nearly 70 percent since Mayer defected from a top job at Google to attempt a turnaround at one of the Internet's best-known brands.

But Yahoo's stock has largely been propelled by a steadily appreciating investment in Alibaba, a fast-growing Internet company in China, made eight long years ago.

Yahoo reaped a \$7.6 bil-

lion windfall from selling nearly half its stake back to Alibaba Group last year and is expected to bring in even more money when it divests the rest of its holdings in the Chinese company within the next few

U.S. operations. That's the second straight quarter this year that has occurred.

Yahoo earned \$331 million, or 30 cents per share, in the three months ending in June. That compared with net income of \$227 million,

among analysts surveyed by FactSet.

Cost cutting helped boost the earnings. Yahoo's second-quarter operating expenses, excluding ad commissions, fell 9 percent from the same time last year. The company's payroll stood at 11,500 workers at the end of June, also down by 9 percent over the past year.

Revenue for the period declined 7 percent from the same time last year to \$1.14 billion.

After stripping out ad commissions, Yahoo's revenue came to \$1.07 billion. That was slightly below analyst projections and marked a 1 percent decline from last year. It's the first time that Yahoo's net revenue has fallen since Mayer took over.

Despite the erosion, Mayer said she remains encouraged by Yahoo's progress. She has consistently said it may take two or three years before the company's ad sales are growing as rapidly as the rest of the Internet market.

In the meantime, she has been focused on improving Yahoo's employee morale, engineering acquisitions that can bring in more promising technology and engineering talent and tweaking the company's products.



In this photo the web pages of Yahoo and Tumblr are displayed on a computer screen in New York. Yahoo reported quarterly earnings on Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

years.

Alibaba is also lifting Yahoo's earnings, as the second-quarter report illustrated. Yahoo's made more money from its investments in Alibaba and Yahoo Japan during the second quarter than it did from its

or 18 cents per share, at the same time last year.

If not for certain items unrelated to its ongoing business, Yahoo said it would have earned 35 cents per share.

That was a nickel above the average estimate

GM global sales up 4 percent, may gain on Toyota

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors' global sales grew almost 4 percent in the first

half of the year, enough to fend off Volkswagen for second place and perhaps close the gap with sales leader Toyota.



A model poses with a Cadillac XTS displayed at the Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition in Shanghai, China. General Motors' global sales grew almost 4% in the first half of the year, according to GM, Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

half of the year, enough to fend off Volkswagen for second place and perhaps close the gap with sales leader Toyota.

GM said Tuesday that it sold 4.85 million cars and trucks worldwide from January through June. That puts GM on pace for sales of around 9.7 million for the year.

The Detroit automaker sold 9.3 million cars and trucks last year, about

450,000 less than Toyota Motor Corp. GM may have gained some ground on its Japanese rival this year by growing faster in the U.S., the world's second-biggest car market.

GM's first-half U.S. sales rose by 8.7 percent to 1.4 million, while Toyota's sales grew by 6.7 percent to 1.1 million, according to Autodata Corp. Toyota is expected to release global sales figures later this month. Also, Toyota sales faltered in China during the first half because of a resurgence of anti-Japanese sentiment there due to a territorial spat over some tiny islands. GM's first-half sales in China, its largest market, rose almost 11 percent to 1.57 million vehicles, the company said. Toyota has a clear lead in its home market of Japan, the fourth-largest auto

market in the world, where competition from foreign brands is limited.

At the end of the first quarter, Toyota, which sells the Toyota, Lexus and Scion brands, held a slim global sales lead of 65,000 vehicles over GM. Toyota and GM executives often say they don't care who wins the global sales race, and that growing profits is more important. But privately they like to win the race because it's good for employee morale and national flag-waving. GM was the top-selling carmaker for seven decades before losing the title to Toyota in 2008. GM retook the crown in 2011 when Toyota's factories were slowed by an earthquake and tsunami in Japan, leaving the company with few cars to sell. Toyota has since recovered. □

Goldman's profit doubles, helped by underwriting

CHRISTINA REXRODE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Goldman Sachs said Tuesday that its second-quarter profit doubled as the bank underwrote more stock and bond offerings for clients and netted big gains on its own investments. But investors homed in on the uncertainty of the future, lobbying question after question at Chief Financial Officer Harvey Schwartz about how the bank would deal with potential regulations that could force it to hold more capital, and also how rising interest rates would affect clients.

Goldman's stock dipped 1 percent in morning trading. So did Morgan Stanley, which, like Goldman, is heavily dependent on institutional clients. Shares for other big banks that have more of a consumer focus, like Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo, were up slightly.

The possibility of higher capital requirements for U.S. banks has been the topic du jour as big financial companies have reported second-quarter earnings over the past few days. U.S. regulators said last week that they might institute a new rule that would essentially require U.S. banks to hold greater amounts of capital. The regulators say this would protect the banks in troubled times; the banking industry has protested that it will put them at a disadvantage to their international peers and constrain them from lending. Unlike JPMorgan on Friday and Citigroup on Monday, Goldman Sachs did not release estimates of how close its current capital levels would come to meeting the proposed new rules. Schwartz said the bank was "comfortable" with its position, but wouldn't release details until it knew more about what regulators wanted.

In a statement, CEO Lloyd Blankfein called the quarter "solid," especially considering the "mixed economic sentiment." □

Coca-Cola's soda struggles dampen Q2 results

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coca-Cola is struggling to sell more soda in the U.S., and it can't seem to catch a break.

The world's largest beverage maker on Tuesday blamed a confluence of factors including unusually bad weather for its disappointing second-quarter results. It cited cold, wet conditions at home and flooding in parts of Europe for weak volume growth globally. Profit declined 4%.

The temporary setbacks clouded the underlying challenge the company faces in North America and other developed markets, where soda consumption has been declining for years amid criticism that sugary drinks fuel obesity rates.

In the latest quarter, for example, Coca-Cola said soda volume in North America fell 4 percent. But the figure has declined in 20 of the 26 quarters since the start of 2007, including a 2 percent slide a year ago.

It was flat in four quarters and rose by just 1 percent in the other two quarters.

Still, executives expressed confidence they'd be able to return to growth with greater investments in marketing, new packaging and other tactics.

"I hate to use the weather, but a lot of it was the weather," Chief Financial Officer Gary Fayard said in an interview on CNBC, apparently acknowledging the frequency with which companies cite the weather when they deliver disappointing results.

When asked if people drink less soda when it's cold and wet outside, Fayard said that was indeed the case.

"We are an industry that's susceptible to weather," he said.

Coke's shares fell 90 cents, or 2.2 percent, to \$40.11. Over the past year, the company's stock is up more than 7 percent.

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, executives expressed confidence that the weather would even out and that business would improve, including in key markets such as India, China and North America.

In the meantime, Coca-Cola and rival PepsiCo Inc. have been trying to come

up with a soda that uses a natural, low-calorie sweetener to reverse the slide in U.S. soda consumption. The challenge is that such sweeteners often have a bad aftertaste. Notably, Coca-Cola has yet to roll out a mid-calorie version

can and Latin American operations.

To hit back at critics, Coca-Cola also began a TV ad campaign addressing obesity for the first time in January. The ad noted that weight gain is the result of consuming too many cal-



12 oz. cans of Coca-Cola are shown in Doral, Fla. The Coca-Cola Co. reported poor quarterly financial results before the market opened on Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

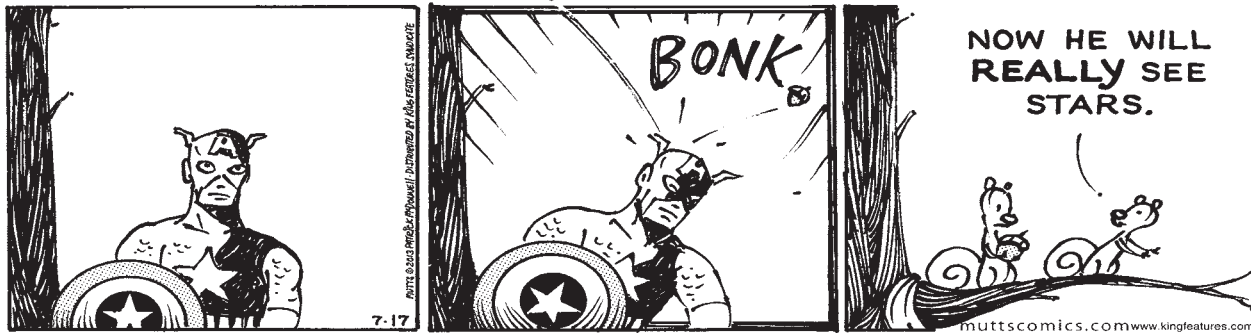
of Fanta and Sprite using the sweetener stevia that it began testing last summer. Nevertheless, executives at both companies have expressed optimism that natural, lower-calorie sodas can get soda sales on the path to growth.

"We're watching, we're learning," said Steve Cahillane, who heads the company's North Ameri-

can and Latin American operations of any kind, not just soda.

Similar ads have since been rolled out, with a focus on cable news channels where Coca-Cola believes viewers are more influential in shaping public opinion. Coca-Cola, based in Atlanta, has also been relying on its bottled teas, water and sports drinks to boost sales. □

Mutts



6 Chix



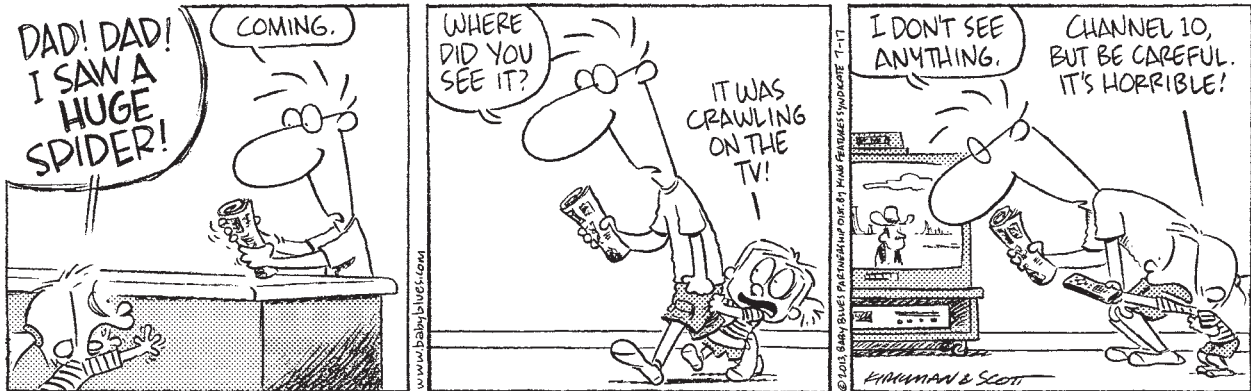
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3	8				1	7
	9					5		
2					6			
9					7			
8					3			
1	6	5			4	8	7	
5			4		1			8
4			3		8			9
	7	8				1	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/17

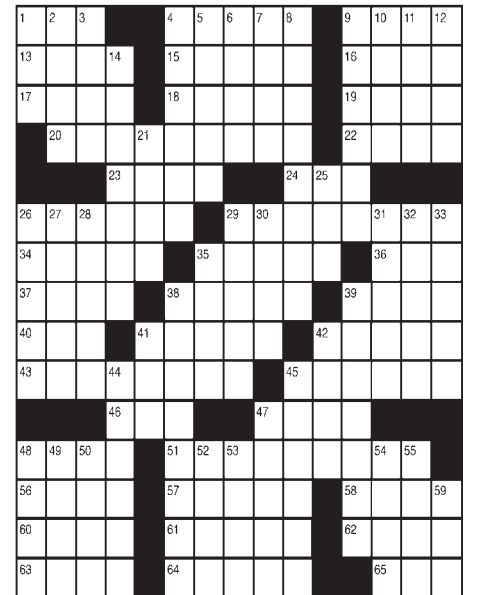
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	5	1	2	9	3	8	6	4
2	4	3	5	8	6	1	9	7
9	6	8	4	7	1	2	5	3
6	9	7	8	3	5	4	1	2
4	8	5	1	2	9	3	7	6
3	1	2	7	6	4	5	8	9
1	3	4	6	5	7	9	2	8
8	7	9	3	1	2	6	4	5
5	2	6	9	4	8	7	3	1

ACROSS

- Beetle or gnat
- Playwright
- Henrik
- Short note
- Mayberry boy
- Loop on the end of a lasso
- Zone
- Scotia
- Down in the
- sad
- Scot's skirt
- Careless; lax
- Discontinues
- Scotland's
- Lomond
- Youth
- Take; receive
- Jailbird
- Inhumane person; beast
- Short thick piece
- Inventor
- Whitney
- "is not to reason why..."
- Pitchfork time
- Old name for France's region
- Moines, IA
- Roaring beasts
- Teeming crowd
- Grandeur; refinement
- up; bangles
- Word of disgust
- Cash register
- Molten rock
- Insulting
- Done; finished
- Purple flower
- as a pin
- Tie up
- Clear the slate
- Strong wind
- Probability
- Used needle and thread
- Sillet



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/17/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

N	A	P	E	A	P	A	R	T	P	O	M	P
O	P	E	N	P	O	W	E	R	A	B	E	E
T	E	S	T	A	R	E	N	A	S	I	N	E
E	X	T	R	A	C	T	A	M	A	T	E	U
				E	W	E	A	M	P	L	E	
P	A	P	A	L	A	L	E	L	L	A	M	A
H	A	L	T	D	I	M	L	E	S	S	E	N
A	R	E	M	A	L	A	Y	A	N	C	A	N
S	O	A	R	E	D	N	A	B	S	O	L	O
E	N	D	E	D	R	A	M	P	A	T	S	Y
				M	I	M	I	C	C	A	B	
R	A	D	I	C	A	L	G	A	R	B	A	G
A	L	E	X	R	I	D	E	R	A	D	E	S
I	D	L	E	I	N	A	N	E	T	A	R	P
L	A	I	D	A	G	N	E	S	H	Y	M	N

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7/17/13

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 39 Young honking waterbird | 49 Eager |
| 41 Fail to keep up | 50 Sell on the street |
| 42 up; delayed | 52 Blaze |
| 44 Protects | 53 Defect |
| 45 Chopped finely | 54 Type of tide |
| 47 Rib | 55 Celebration |
| goodnaturedly | 59 Reasonable bedtime |
| 48 Gray wolf | |

DOWN

- "voyage!"
- Come; find
- Donate
- Charge with a crime
- Angers
- Swamp reptile, for short
- Very tiny openings

Flood of cyberattacks challenge campus culture

RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA
© 2013 New York Times

America's research universities, among the most open and robust centers of information exchange in the world, are increasingly coming under cyber-attack, most of it thought to be from China, with millions of hacking attempts weekly. Campuses are being forced to tighten security, constrict their culture of openness and try to determine what has been stolen.

University officials concede that some of the hacking attempts have succeeded. But they have declined to reveal specifics, other than those involving the theft of personal data like Social Security numbers. They acknowledge that they often do not learn of break-ins until much later, if ever, and that even after discovering the breaches they may not be able to tell what was taken.

"The attacks are increasing exponentially, and so is the sophistication, and I think it's outpaced our ability to respond," said Rodney J. Petersen, who heads the

cybersecurity program at Educause, a nonprofit alliance of schools and technology companies. "So everyone's investing a lot more resources in detecting this, so we learn of even more incidents



Bill Mellon, of the University of Wisconsin, who said the school has seen as many as 100,000 hacking attempts a day from China, on campus in Madison, Wis., July 16, 2013.

(Andy Manis/The New York Times)

we wouldn't have known about before." Tracy B. Mittrano, the director of information technology policy at Cornell University, said that detection

was "probably our greatest area of concern, that the hackers' ability to detect vulnerabilities and penetrate them without being detected has increased sharply."

Like many of her counterparts, she said that while the largest number of attacks appeared to have originated in China, hackers have become adept at bouncing their work around the world.

Analysts can track where communications come from - a region, a service provider, sometimes even a user's specific Internet address. But hackers often route their penetration attempts through multiple computers, even multiple countries, and the targeted organizations rarely go to the effort and expense - often fruitless - of trying to trace the origins. □

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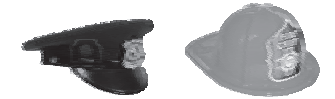
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Lionfish beyond reach of divers worry researchers

JENNIFER KAY

Associated Press

ABOARD THE SUBMERSIBLE ANTIPODES (AP) — The invasive lionfish that crowds coral reefs and preys on native fish in the Atlantic's shallower waters is such a problem that divers in Florida and the Caribbean are encouraged to capture and eat them whenever they can.

Lionfish, which have venomous spines, are a well-documented problem in Atlantic coral reefs, where the foot (25 centimeter)-long, one pound (0.45 kilogram) invaders from the tropical parts of the Pacific and Indian oceans live without predators and eat other fish voraciously. What's slowly coming into view is how deep into the ocean their invasion has spread.

Researchers and wildlife officials worry that lionfish may undo conservation efforts aimed at rebuilding populations of native predators such as groupers and snappers. Lionfish gorge on the young of those species, as well as their prey. "They can eat pretty much anything that fits inside their mouths," Oregon State University lionfish expert Stephanie Green said. Divers are encouraged to capture and eat any lionfish they encounter to protect reefs and native marine life already burdened by pollution, over-fishing and the effects of climate change. And last month, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission waived the recreational license requirement for divers harvesting lionfish and excluded them from bag limits, allowing people to catch as many as they can.

But recreational divers max out around 130 feet (40 meters) deep, though. Researchers and wildlife officials rarely have the means to venture deeper than that, but they've realized the lionfish they can't see may be their biggest concern. As Green discovered on a recent expedition aboard a submersible, there's little



In this Thursday, June 27, 2013 image taken from video, two lionfish are shown in an aquarium at the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center in Dania Beach, Fla. Divers in Florida and the Caribbean are encouraged to capture and eat any lionfish they encounter to protect reefs and native marine life already burdened by pollution, over-fishing and the effects of climate change. Recreational

Associated Press

to disturb a lionfish living on a wreck 250 feet (80 meters) deep into the Atlantic. There are no predators and no divers. "I did not expect it to be this loaded with lionfish," Green said. In less than half an hour, she tallied nearly three dozen lionfish in view across the stern of a steel freighter sunk in the 1980s as an artificial reef off South Florida. She could have continued counting, if the yellow submersible's draining battery had not required a trip back to the ocean's surface.

Last month, Seattle-based OceanGate Inc. offered scientists and wildlife officials a close-up look at deep-water lionfish in dives aboard the yellow submersible named Antipodes. In strong currents that might have tangled a tether connecting a remotely operated robot to a vessel at the surface, the Antipodes sank and rose as smoothly as an elevator. Maneuvered by a joystick, it crawled over the sand at a walking pace.

Green and other researchers who took the dives surfaced believing they had seen the frontier in their fight against lionfish. The next problem will be routinely making similar dives to study and perhaps capture lionfish. They would seem to have a lot of water to cover — the deepest confirmed

sighting of a lionfish was at 1,000 feet (300 meters) in the Bahamas. "We are capable of doing a good job of controlling lionfish at diveable depths, in shallower areas. Divers and spearfishers can go in and remove the fish. But the lionfish are abundant in large numbers at these deeper habitats,

breeding invasive species likely introduced through the pet trade, with no natural predators to keep their numbers in check. Desperate for some kind of control over their populations, Florida this year enlisted volunteers and amateurs to go after both. But when it comes to lionfish, Dan Ellinor of the



In this Friday, June 28, 2013 photo, Stockton Rush, CEO and Co-Founder of OceanGate Inc., opens the hatch on the company's submersible "Antipodes," about three miles off the coast of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The Seattle-based company offered scientists and wildlife officials a close-up look at the invasive lionfish deep in the waters off South Florida aboard the Antipodes.

Associated Press

and that's really where the next frontier of this battle is going to be, in those deep water areas," Green said. Lionfish in the Atlantic Ocean have similarities to the Burmese python, the large, ravenous snake that researchers say is decimating native mammal populations in Florida's Everglades. Both are fast-

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission noted that those efforts primarily target areas already frequented by scuba divers. "We're going to have to figure out how we're going to get below the diver depths," said Ellinor, a biological administrator with the commission's marine

fisheries division.

"The other problem is there's not a commercial market per se," he added. "It's very small, very minute, it's in the Keys, it's beyond the reef in about 200 feet (60 meters) of water and it's bycatch out of traps, lobster traps."

More and bigger lionfish now live throughout the Gulf of Mexico and in the Atlantic between the Carolinas and Colombia than in the species' native range in the Indian and Pacific oceans, researchers say. Worse, it's not known what controls lionfish in their home waters — maybe a parasite, or something eating their eggs and larvae before they develop their poisonous spines.

In Atlantic waters, lionfish apparently have nothing to fear except cold water and scuba divers equipped with specific gear.

"They pretty much have been unprecedented in any marine invasion. It's the largest, the quickest, the most extensive marine invasion we've ever seen," said Nova Southeastern University's Matthew Johnston, whose work predicting the spread of other invasive species is based on the success of the lionfish. Officials have concluded that if you can't beat lionfish, you can at least eat them, even though commercial supplies and the market for the lionfish remain very small.

For years in the Caribbean, dive shop operators, conservationists and some restaurant chefs have been trying to slow their spread by turning them into menu items. Derby-style lionfish tournaments are held from Bermuda as far south as Curacao, a Dutch Caribbean island off the coast of Venezuela.

In the Turks and Caicos Islands, the government once put up a cash prize for the first fisherman to catch 3,000. In Bonaire, where the economy is dependent on reef diving tourism, volunteers are being licensed as "lionfish hunters." □

Coroner: 'Glee' actor Monteith died of overdose

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — "Glee" actor Cory Monteith, who had struggled for years with substance abuse and once said he was lucky to be alive, died of an overdose of heroin and alcohol, the British Columbia coroner's office said Tuesday.

"There is no evidence to suggest Mr. Monteith's death was anything other than a most tragic accident," the office said in a statement.

The 31-year-old was found dead in his Vancouver, British Columbia, hotel room on Saturday after he didn't check out on time. He was believed to be alone when

he died. Hotel video and electronic records indicate he returned to his room by himself early Saturday.

At a briefing Tuesday afternoon, police said they believe Monteith had been dead for several hours before he was found. They said the coroner's report didn't indicate the levels of heroin or alcohol in his system. They ruled out foul play.

"Our belief is that when he took the heroin he was alone," said Vancouver Police Department spokesman Brian Montague. He added: "There was evidence in the room that was consistent with a drug over-

dose. We're not providing exactly what we found at the scene."

Monteith's death recalled the lives of Heath Ledger, Corey Haim and River Phoenix — actors who battled substance abuse and died in their 20s and 30s.

Monteith had talked bluntly about struggling with addiction since he was a teenager, calling it a serious problem and telling Parade magazine in 2011 he was "lucky to be alive." In that interview, he said he was using marijuana and drinking by age 13, and his drug use was "out of control" by the time he was 16. "Anything and everything, as much as possible," he said. "I had a serious problem."

Monteith admitted himself to a treatment facility in April for substance addiction, a representative said at the time. He also received treatment when he was 19. He told Parade that his mother and friends had staged an intervention back then, afraid he "could die." However, he said, "I did the stint but



In this May 25, 2012 file photo, Canadian actor Cory Monteith looks on while attending a charitable announcement at Project Limelight, a not-for-profit children's theatre program, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Associated Press

then went back to doing exactly what I left off doing."

"Glee," with its catchy song-and-dance numbers and high-profile guest stars like Gwyneth Paltrow and Britney Spears, became an instant hit when it debuted in 2009. Monteith served as the show's resident hunk with a heart of gold.

The Fox network and the producers of "Glee," including 20th Century Fox Television, have called Monteith an exceptional

performer "and an even more exceptional person."

Gia Milani, who recently produced and directed a Canadian film featuring Monteith, this week said Monteith "seemed healthy" when she last saw him four weeks ago in Los Angeles.

"He looked super fit and he was energetic and excited," Milani said. She said Monteith showed no signs of a substance abuse problem while shooting the film a year ago. □



In this May 19, 2013 file photo, Stevie Wonder performs at The Hangout Festival on in Gulf Shores, Ala. Wonder says he won't perform in Florida and other states where the "stand your ground" law.

Associated Press

Wonder won't sing in Fla. after Zimmerman verdict

NEW YORK (AP) — Stevie Wonder says he won't perform in Florida and other states with a "stand your ground" firearm self-defense law.

In a video posted on YouTube, the 63-year-old singer said at a concert in Quebec City, Canada, on Sunday "that until the 'stand your ground' law is abolished in Florida, I will never perform there again."

Wonder added: "Wherever I find that law exists, I will not perform in that state or in that part of the world." The "stand your ground" law allows people to use deadly force if they believe their life is in danger.

George Zimmerman shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin during a February 2012 confrontation in Sanford, Florida. Zimmerman said he fired in self-defense.

A jury acquitted Zimmerman of second-degree murder and manslaughter charges on Saturday. □



U.S. singer Nas performs on stage during the Wireless Festival at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London, Sunday, July 14, 2013.

Associated Press.

Rapper Nas gets fellowship in his name at Harvard

NEW YORK (AP) — Nas has rapped his way to Harvard University.

The Ivy League school announced Tuesday that the 39-year-old rapper is being honored with the Nasir Jones Hip-Hop Fellowship at its W.E.B. Du Bois Institute. It's a joint venture with Harvard's Hip-Hop Archive.

The fellowship will assist students who excel in the arts "in connection with hip-hop."

Nas is one of hip-hop's most celebrated lyricists, best known for his reflective rhymes and deep storytelling. His 11th album, "Life Is Good," was released last year. It earned four Grammy nominations. His hits include "If I Ruled the World (Imagine That)," "Street Dreams" and "I Can."

The Hip-Hop Archive was established at Harvard in 2002. It supports growing research in hip-hop. □

Man pleads not guilty in chef's extortion plot

SAVANNAH, Georgia (AP) — A U.S. man has pleaded not guilty to charges of trying to extort embattled celebrity chef Paula Deen. An indict-



In this Jan. 17, 2012 file photo, celebrity chef Paula Deen poses for a portrait in New York. Associated Press

ment filed July 10 in U.S. District Court charges Thomas George Paculis with trying to extort \$200,000 from Deen in exchange for keeping quiet about allegedly damaging remarks she had made in the past. Details on those alleged remarks, and the relationship between Paculis and Deen, were unclear.

A message left with Paculis' court-appointed attorney on Tuesday wasn't returned.

The case took form after Deen's culinary empire began crumbling in response to her acknowledgement that she had used racial slurs in the past. □

Maroon 5 singer Adam Levine engaged to model

NEW YORK (AP) — Sorry, ladies, but Adam Levine is off the market.

The Maroon 5 singer's representative confirmed Tuesday that Levine is engaged to model Behati Prinsloo.

Levine proposed to Prinsloo over the weekend in Los Angeles. The couple started dating last year. The singer's rep says the 34-year-old Levine and the 24-year-old Prinsloo recently reunited.



In this June 14, 2013 file photo, Maroon 5 lead singer Adam Levine appears on NBC's "Today" show in New York. Associated Press

Prinsloo is from Namibia and models for Victoria's Secret. Levine also is a judge on the NBC television singing competition "The

Voice."

The Grammy Award-winning Maroon 5 last year released its fourth album, "Overexposed." It features

the hits "Payphone," "One More Night," "Daylight" and "Love Somebody."

People magazine first reported the engagement. □

Filmmaker's wit enlivens 'My Lunches With Orson'

DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
Associated Press

"My Lunches With Orson: Conversations Between Henry Jaglom and Orson Welles" (Metropolitan Books), by Peter Biskind

Orson Welles would enter the trendy Los Angeles restaurant Ma Maison through the kitchen, thus avoiding being seen arriving by wheelchair. His girth as wide as his talent, the director of 1941's "Citizen Kane" sat in a mammoth restaurant chair with his toy poodle, Kiki. Eager for almost any kind of work in the early 1980s, the one-time boy wonder behind the film regularly declared the greatest ever made had become a living symbol of how Hollywood could abandon its geniuses.

For years, the writer and director Henry Jaglom joined Welles at Ma Maison nearly every week. He was Welles' unofficial agent and representative, trying to get his friend's movie projects off the ground. Over lunch, they discussed practically anything — Welles' weight was out of bounds — and Welles offered seemingly unguarded observations, at times humorous and



This book cover image released by Metropolitan shows "My Lunches with Orson: Conversations Between Henry Jaglom and Orson Welles," edited by Peter Biskind.

Associated Press

profane, in spite of the presence of a tape recorder. On actors: "English ac-

tors are more modest than Americans, because they've never had ("meth-

od" acting teacher) Lee Strasberg to teach 'em that they know better than the director."

On gossip columnists Louella Parsons and Hedda Hopper: "You don't know the power those two cows had in this town! People opened the paper, ignoring Hitler and everything else, and turned right to Louella and Hedda."

On the Irish: "They hate themselves. I lived for years in Ireland. The majority of intelligent Irishmen dislike Irishmen, and they're right."

Decades after Welles' death in 1985, author Peter Biskind presents the transcripts from those recorded lunches. Welles appears uncensored — and it's not a pretty sight. Fascinating, amusing and eye-opening, to be sure, but "My Lunches With Orson" is yet more evidence that one of the wonderful minds of theater and film was in a creative death spiral in his final years. Not that Welles didn't have ideas, but he couldn't find backers for them — and that was a dark weight on his mind. Lightning up their chats are his tart appraisals of

stars like Laurence Olivier ("seriously stupid"), Norma Shearer ("one of the most minimally talented ladies ever to appear on the silver screen"), Humphrey Bogart ("both a coward and a very bad fighter"), Spencer Tracy ("I hate him so ... he's one of those bitchy Irishmen") and Joan Fontaine ("just a plain old bad actor ... she's got four readings, and two expressions, and that's it").

He has praise for many others, including Clark Gable (not bright but "terribly nice") and Carole Lombard ("I adored her"). Although he appeared memorably in movies such as "The Third Man" and "Touch of Evil," Welles considers his own acting an amateur pursuit.

Welles' taste in movies can be surprising. Among his many dislikes are the American films of Alfred Hitchcock, whom he considered burdened by egotism and laziness. Worse, he adds, is "Vertigo." Fortunately for his sake, Welles did not live to see "Vertigo" replace "Citizen Kane" last year as the best film ever in the decennial Sight & Sound poll of film critics. □

Tweeting Toward Sacrilege



FRANK BRUNI

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PRINCETON, N.J. - I wasn't sure which to bring up first with Joyce Carol Oates: the Muslims or the llamas.

She had tweeted about both in the days before I dropped by to see her last week. This said something about the breadth of her interests. Or about Twitter's way of playing midwife to mischief. I veered in the safer direction.

"So where are they?" I asked, looking out the back window of her house here, across a yard as empty as it was green. Nothing grazing. Nothing woolly. Certainly not the "53 llamas" that she had suggested, in a tweet, that she was purchasing to satisfy "a metaphysical yearning."

She explained that she'd been riffing facetiously off a story in The New York Times about rampant llama love.

"There's really not room here," she said. "We only have 3 acres." Plenty for Oates and her husband. Not for an Andean offshoot of the clan.

That subject dispensed with, we proceeded to the missives that had really lit up cyberspace and had really prompted my visit.

In the first days of July, Oates, one of America's most celebrated writers, was monitoring news from Egypt and was struck by something that I'm sure many other people noticed as well. It certainly caught my eye. Amid accounts of street protests were reports of sexual violence, an odd expression and ugly byproduct of the rage.

On her Twitter feed she saw a statistic that chilled her. And she tweeted, "Where 99.3% of women report having been sexually harassed & rape is epidemic - Egypt - natural to inquire: what's the predominant religion?"

This wasn't an isolated query. It belonged to a stream of musings that day, all 140 characters or fewer, on Egypt, Islam and women.

She wrote, "If 99.3% of women reported being treated equitably, fairly, generously - it would be natural to ask: what's the predominant religion?"

She also wrote, "'Rape culture' has no relationship to any 'religious culture' - how can this be? Religion has no effect on behavior at all?"

Fellow writers and intellectuals freaked.

On various byways of the Internet, she was blasted for anti-Muslim

bigotry. A "furor," The Wall Street Journal called it, and in a headline no less.

I wondered if she wanted to take it all back.

"Well, I'm not a confrontational person, so I wouldn't do it again," she told me, at least not with the exact language she used. She said that she might instead have written, "If all these women are being harassed and raped and so forth, it's natural to ask what are the social conditions." You tweet and you learn.

That she tweets at all is astonishing. Where does she find the time? She teaches a full load at Princeton.

She also writes long, deeply researched literary reviews. And then there's her principal vocation and claim to prolific fame: churning out at least a book a year - the novel "The Accursed," all 670 history-packed pages of it, is her most recent - along with poems, essays and more.

Now 75, she cannot off the top of her head even quantify her oeuvre, which makes anyone else's look like a lazy internship. More than 100 titles. That's for certain. The 99.3 percent figure that she cites for Egyptian women who report having been harassed is questionable, from a U.N. survey that defines harassment broadly. And she hasn't researched the "epidemic" nature of rape in Egypt. She's never been there, or anywhere in the Middle East.

But in a world in which sexual violence remains as unconscionably prevalent as in ours, shouldn't anyone who cares about women - about human rights - be asking all sorts of questions, including delicate ones? And why are questions that stray beyond the secular considered so particularly delicate?

Look critically at someone's god and gird for the lightning.

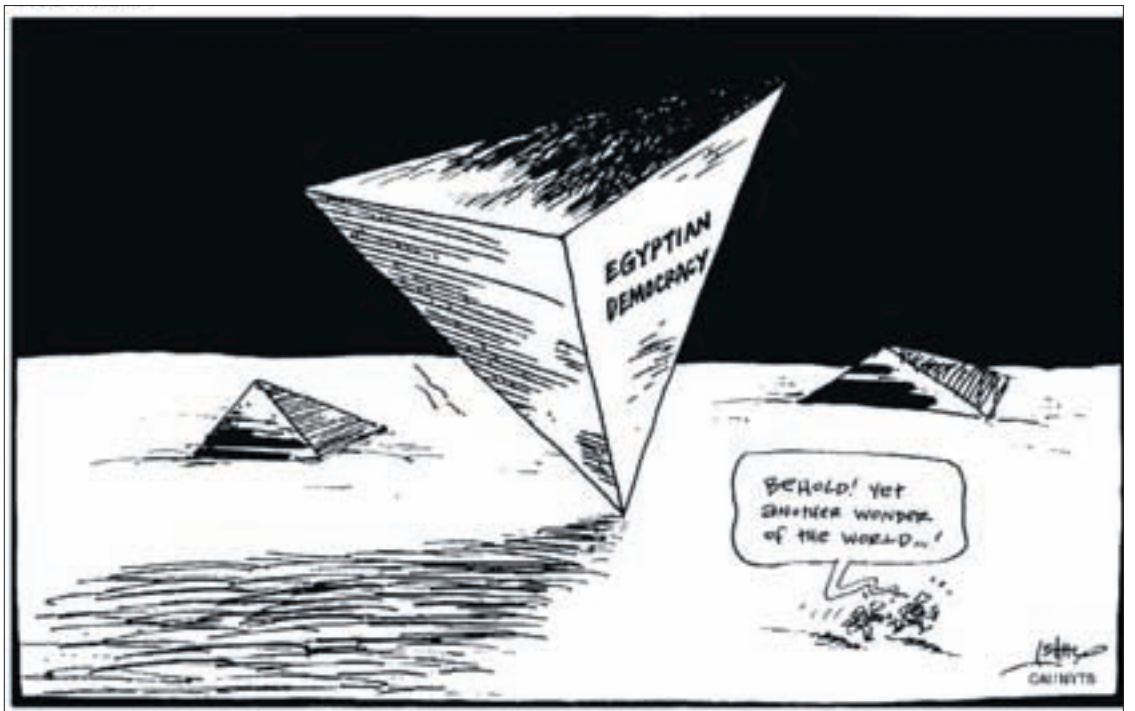
Oates calls herself a humanist, rejects the conventional notion of divinity and told me, "I don't have a sense that there are sacred institutions. To me, all religions and all churches are created by human beings." In that regard, she added, "They're not that different from, say, the whole legal culture or the medical culture or the scientific culture." About which you can say or ask almost anything at all. She finds certain barriers and etiquette curious.

"If you thought that women were being mistreated 50 miles from where you are, you might want to go help them," she said. "But if you were told it was a religious commune or something, you'd think, 'Uh-oh, that's their religion, maybe I shouldn't help them.' It's like religion is under a dome. It gives an imprimatur to behavior that shouldn't be tolerated."

Is she saying that Islam oppresses women?

Although she expressed concern about Shariah law, she didn't go that far, and she noted that most religions were patriarchies.

Islam stands out for her in terms of the extra-special sensitivity surrounding discussion of it. □



The House Just Wants To Snack



GAIL COLLINS

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And, now, the Tasty Bites theory of government.

You might have heard that the House of Representatives passed a farm bill last week. Or possibly not. I have found that many Americans can go for a very long time without mentioning the farm bill. But we are going to talk about it today, and it will be absolutely fascinating.

For decades, Congress has merged food stamps - which help poor people pay for their groceries - with agricultural subsidies in one big, messy, bipartisan farm bill that made everybody happy. Well, not euphoric. There was definitely that messy factor. But it did merge the interests/needs of urban and rural lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans.

Lately, the House has begun chopping up big, complicated bills into what Speaker John Boehner once described as "bite-sized chunks that members can digest." No more legislative sausage-making. No more bipartisan trading. The House was going to stick to clean, simple ideas, more along the lines of Liver Snaps.

So the farm bill got divided. The two parts were not equally tidy. As Ron Nixon reported in The Times, the rate of error and fraud

in the agricultural crop insurance program is significantly higher than in the food stamp program. Also, the agriculture part has a lot of eyebrow-raising provisions, like the \$147 million a year in reparations we send to Brazil to make up for the fact that it won a World Trade Organization complaint about the market-distorting effects of our cotton subsidies.

And while food stamps go to poor people, most of the farm aid goes to wealthy corporations. So House Republicans passed the farm part and left food stamps hanging.

Say what?

Tea Party conservatives have an all-purpose disdain for anything that smacks of redistribution of wealth, and food stamps are a prime target.

"The role of citizens, of Christians, of humanity, is to take care of each other. But not for Washington to steal money from those in the country and give to others in the country," Rep. Stephen Fincher, R-Tenn., said during a speech in Memphis.

So the food stamp program was the total opposite of a Tasty Bite to House Republicans. More like that Scottish thing with sheep stomach and oatmeal. But the agriculture part was billed as delicious restraint. They rallied behind the just-farm-stuff bill in a party line 216-208 vote.

"This is a victory for farmers and conservatives who desired desperately needed reforms to these programs," said Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., the majority leader.

The House bill actually spent more money on subsidies for farmers than the bipartisan Senate version the Republicans scorned. It also dropped the Senate's limit on aid to farmers with incomes of more than \$750,000 a year. And while it mimicked the Senate in dropping most of the much-derrided direct payments to farmers, the House gave cotton farmers a two-year extension.

Let's take a special look at cotton, which is a particularly good example of the tendency of agricultural benefits to flow uphill.

"Some of these guys - and they're all guys - are getting more than

\$1 million in support. The bottom 80 percent are getting \$5,000 on average," said Scott Faber of the Environmental Working Group. Faber's organization, which keeps careful track of these things, says direct payments to cotton farmers since 1995 have totaled \$3.8 billion. That does not count the annual \$147 million the United States has been sending to Brazil in hush money.

Crop insurance gets bigger under the new plan. Here's how: You, the taxpayer, fork over the majority of the cost of the farmers' policy premiums. (Up to 80 percent in the case of cotton.) Also, you spend about \$1.3 billion a year to compensate the insurance agents for the fact that they have to sell coverage to any eligible farmer, whatever his prospects for success. Plus, if yields actually do drop, you have to compensate the insurance companies for part of the cost of claims.

Is this beginning to sound a little like Obamacare? No! No way! The House Republicans hate-hate-hate Obamacare! They vote to repeal it as often as they change their socks! Because Obamacare will, you know, distort the natural operation of the markets.

The larding of benefits to farmers didn't come up during the House debate. It was all about food stamps, and Democrats asking to know why their colleagues wanted to cut aid to hungry children and old people. During an Agriculture Committee meeting on the bill, Rep. Juan Vargas, D-Calif., quoted Jesus' lesson that "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

That raised Fincher's hackles. "Man, I really got bent out of shape," he told that Memphis audience, proudly reporting that he countered with Thesalonians: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

By now, you must be wondering why I keep bringing up this guy. Fincher is a farmer who has, over the years, received \$3.5 million in federal agricultural subsidies, much of it for - yes! - cotton. □

THIS LITTLE PIGGY TOOK A SHORTCUT



**A plate of pan-seared Italian porchetta pork chops.
(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)**

MELISSA CLARK
© 2013 New York Times

The first ingredient of a traditional porchetta recipe is a small whole pig. This alone explains why I've never tried the dish at home, despite my deep affection for it.

There are shortcut versions, one of which I tried. I took an entire pork loin, brined it, covered it with the herb paste and tied it up in a butterflied pork belly. It roasted to mahogany perfection in less than three hours. Easier and faster, to be sure, but not something I could whip up on a weeknight or feed to less than a crowd.

Instead, when I want the flavors of a porchetta, I stuff the classic herb paste into a smaller and more manageable cut.

Thick pork chops work well here. Simply cut a pocket into each chop so that you have somewhere to stuff the paste. The thicker your chop, the easier it is to slice that pocket in the center and not slice through the

top or bottom of the meat. Since porchetta is an Italian dish, there are as many variations in the seasonings as there are Italians doing the seasoning. In Rome, rosemary dominates the blend, while the Umbrians tend to play up crushed

it with a sprinkle of fennel seeds along with the fronds. If you're only lukewarm on fennel, keep the fronds but leave out the seeds.

You'll note that this recipe calls for the fennel fronds but not the bulb. Slice the



The herb paste for Italian porchetta pork chops. Porchetta pork chops make one of the great dishes of Italy, though hard to find or to make in the U.S.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

wild fennel fronds. Lemon zest may or may not make an appearance.

I always use the lemon zest. And since I particularly like the sweet, licorice note of fennel with pork, I heighten

bulb into a fennel salad to serve alongside, maybe dressed with olive oil and topped with shaved Parmesan. Or next time you use fennel for something else, save the fronds to use

here. This porchetta variation comes together so quickly, you can make it on a whim.

PORCHETTA PORK CHOPS

Time: 20 minutes

Yield: 2 servings

2 bone-in pork chops, 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inches thick

1 teaspoon coarse kosher salt, plus a pinch

1 lemon

2 garlic cloves, minced

2 tablespoons chopped rosemary

Large pinch red pepper flakes

1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds, lightly crushed

2 tablespoons chopped fennel fronds, more for garnish

2 tablespoons olive oil

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Pat pork chops dry and, using a very sharp paring knife, cut a large pocket into the fat-covered edge of each chop. Season chops all over with 1 teaspoon salt, including inside pockets.

2. Finely grate zest from lemon and put in a small

bowl. Cut lemon lengthwise in quarters for serving.

3. Using a mortar and pestle or the flat side of a knife, mash garlic with a pinch of salt until you get a paste. Add to the bowl with the lemon zest and stir in rosemary, red pepper flakes, fennel seeds, 2 tablespoons fennel fronds and 1 tablespoon olive oil.

4. Divide filling between pork chops, stuffing some inside pockets and rubbing the rest on the outside.

5. Heat a large ovenproof skillet over high heat and add 1 tablespoon olive oil. Sear pork chops on one side for 5 minutes, or until golden brown. Gently turn over chops and cook for another minute, then transfer skillet to oven. Cook until meat is just done, about 5 to 10 minutes longer (internal temperature should read 135 degrees on a meat thermometer). Transfer pork chops to a plate, tent with foil, and let rest for 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with fennel fronds and lemon wedges. □